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Church could change rules on celibacy, say Catholic leaders



By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Roman Catholic Church's ruling that priests must be celibate could be relaxed, Cardinal Basil Hume, the spiritual leader of the 4.4 million Catholics in England and Wales, said yesterday.

He was backed immediately by another senior bishop, the Right Rev Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, who said it was only a matter of time before the question of the ordination of married priests came up in Rome. While insisting that there were

still good reasons for keeping celibacy in place, Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, said many "excellent" people were being lost to the Church because they wanted to be married.

As expected, the Vatican stood firm on celibacy for priests and nuns, despite increasing demands from the Western Church that the subject should at least be open for debate at the highest levels. A Vatican spokesman said the Pope "insists on mandatory celibacy in the Latin Church. He does not want to change the rules".

Church leaders in Britain are

anxious not to be seen as responding to the resignation of the Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, the Right Rev Roderick Wright, who is believed to be in hiding with Kathleen Macphee, a divorced mother-of-three.

But while change might be years away, and is unlikely under the present Papacy, the loss of Bishop Wright to the church has re-ignited the debate, in this country at least.

Asked about the celibacy laws on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, Cardinal Hume said: "It is not divine law. It is Church law, so any Pope or General Council could

change it." He said the impact of the rule and any change on other cultures must be carefully considered. The celibacy debate was at present being conducted very much in western Europe and north America. "But the Catholic Church has to take a worldwide view."

He said there were practical reasons for a celibate priesthood. "Many of us would find it very hard to give all our energy and our time to our ministry and to give good quality time to our families."

But the most important aspect was that Christ was celibate. I have tried through my life to try to

explore in prayer what this means. Our society is very preoccupied with sex. It is not a bad thing to have people who can witness to love without sex."

Bishop Murphy-O'Connor, Chairman of the Catholic Committee for Christian Unity, said the ordination of married men was likely to be considered in future "by the bishops in communion with the Pope". He said: "This is a discipline and the church could change it." But, like Cardinal Hume, he also spoke strongly in favour of celibacy.

Cardinal Thomas Winning, of Glasgow, said that Bishop Wright

could remain a priest if he gave up any sexual relationship he might have had. The leader of Scotland's 750,000 Roman Catholics said he believed, from the bishop's reaction at a meeting with him on Sunday, that this was the option Bishop Wright would prefer. But the Cardinal insisted that the case made no difference to the strict rules of celibacy.

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Battle looms over public workers' pay

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

A CONFRONTATION between unions and the Government is likely next year — whoever wins the election — after Kenneth Clarke's announcement yesterday that he was freezing the public sector pay bill for a fourth year.

The Chancellor told review bodies that pay rises for more than a million teachers, nurses, doctors, servicemen and civil servants should be smaller than this year's average of 4 per cent, and he confirmed that any increases would have to be financed through efficiency savings.

The results of the reviews will be published early next year, in the run-up to the election, and even if the bodies reject Mr Clarke's advice, public sector workers are unlikely to receive big rises from whichever party forms the next Government.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, has been careful to avoid committing himself to implementing any proposed awards and Alastair Darling, the Shadow Chief Secretary, warned unions yesterday not to expect a pay bonanza.

"Any proceeding on that assumption will be doing so on a false basis," he said. "Most people understand that any government has to keep a proper control of public finances. We have no intention of giving in or surrendering positions that cannot be justified and cannot be paid for. I want to make it abundantly clear: we will maintain tight control of public spending."

He was speaking after Mr Clarke, who is struggling to find scope for tax cuts in November, announced a tougher squeeze on pay than last year, when the review bodies' recommendations exceeded inflation and were phased in as a result. The public pay bill would again be held at £80 billion, continuing a freeze that has led to awards of 2 or 3 per cent for most of the five million public sector workers.

Borrowing hit £4.5 bn in August

The Government was forced to borrow £4.5 billion in August, more than the City had expected, amid signs that tight control of public spending is beginning to slip. This disappointing news on public finances coincided with a call from the British Chambers of Commerce to avoid tax cuts in the November Budget while the level of borrowing remains so high. — Page 23

Mr Clarke is also seeking to cut next year's total public spending target of £298 billion by up to £5 billion to finance tax cuts and reduce government borrowing. Social security, transport, defence and local government are the most vulnerable departments, while health and education are likely to be protected.

The Cabinet's EDX spending committee has already started discussing how the money should be distributed, and the Chancellor is putting pressure on spending ministers by requiring them to make their case to the full committee rather than in private meetings with the Chief Secretary.

Mr Clarke underlined his determination to contain pub-

lic spending in his evidence to the pay review bodies, in which he said there was no upward pressure on the pay in the economy yesterday and called for "realistic and affordable" settlements.

But his remarks brought immediate threats of industrial action from the unions. Barry Reamsbottom, general secretary of the CPSA, the biggest civil service union, said: "Mr Clarke's wallet is bulging with the 26 per cent pay increase that MPs awarded themselves only three months ago, yet he is intent on forcing civil servants who have met all the targets set by this Government to swallow a pay freeze for a further year. It is breathtaking double standards and the electorate will see through it."

John Monks, the TUC general secretary, accused the Chancellor of playing politics with public sector pay. "Kenneth Clarke is hitting nurses, teachers and other crucial public sector workers in the wallet to give them enough money to buy votes with tax cuts in the run-up to the general election."

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Woman detective wins payout for sex harassment

By PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN detective has been given a six-figure compensation payment after her promising career was blighted by sexual harassment from male colleagues.

The sum paid to Libby Ashurst, 27, a former WPC with North Yorkshire Police, is one of two out-of-court settlements made by the force to avoid embarrassing details becoming public at industrial tribunals. In the second case former WPC Amanda Rose, who was on secondment to the same CID at Harrogate, is understood to have received around £10,000.

The allegations made by the two women led to a two-year internal investigation in Harrogate which uncovered incidents of bullying, bizarre initiation rites for new officers and a catalogue of sexual harassment. They included a detective constable being locked in the station dog kennels for three hours for refusing to apologise for wearing the wrong kind of tie, a detective sergeant stripping naked in his office and wearing a lost property label on his penis, male recruits being forced to run the length of a corridor with bulldog clips on their nipples and a joke dog mess being put in a senior officer's desk drawer.

A chief inspector, a sergeant and several other officers have since been disciplined. They were either fined, transferred or both.

Most of the incidents happened four years ago and only came to light after a complaint from one of the women officers about a detective sergeant. He was alleged to have suggested that the two women wear more seductive clothing, such as stockings. The women also complained about always being given the worst jobs and

suffering a barrage of sexist and deprecatory remarks.

Miss Ashurst's father, Terry, Principal of Doncaster Further Education College, has called for a public investigation. He said the episode had left his daughter highly traumatised. "I do not believe the Chief Constable's statement that none of the hierarchy was involved."

"I believe the culture is pervasive of sexual harassment and bullying and I cannot accept that senior officers are so lacking in knowledge of what is going on at the various levels within the force."

If they don't know, there is even more wrong with the force than one might believe already."

This summer two officers at Harrogate were transferred to other stations after a disciplinary hearing before two chief constables, Richard Wells of South Yorkshire Police and Tony Leonard of Humberside Police.

Mr Ashurst said his daughter had signed an agreement not to talk about the case. He added: "Her career effectively



Burke: he apologised for Miss Ashurst's treatment

is destroyed. She has a number of commendations from the force, including one for bravery after she disarmed a man in a hostage situation."

Miss Ashurst's mother Barbara, a teacher at a junior school in York, said: "She seemed perfectly happy when she was on the beat, but things changed when she was promoted into the CID and now she is very nervous. I haven't discussed with her what went wrong because it only upsets her too much."

Tony Lidgate, press officer for North Yorkshire Police, said: "The Chief Constable, David Burke, has apologised to Miss Ashurst for the treatment she received. He has said this was an isolated incident which departs radically from the very high standards of North Yorkshire Police. The force will strive to ensure similar circumstances do not arise again."

As a result of a number of incidents some years ago, a chief inspector has appeared before a disciplinary hearing. Five out of eight charges were proved against him and he was fined." It is understood that while none of the officers involved has been returned to uniform, most have been sent to stations in rural parts of the county.

One serving officer said the incidents had begun as innocent horseplay, but had got out of hand. The officer put in the dog kennels was apparently being punished for not falling in with his colleagues who all decided to wear loud ties for work. When he refused he was issued with a mobile phone and told not to come out until he rang with an apology.

Angela Harris, chairwoman of North Yorkshire police committee, declined to comment on the case.

Boy took shotgun to school

By RICHARD DUCE

A BOY aged 12 smuggled a sawn-off shotgun into school after inscribing the names of fellow pupils on cartridges as part of a planned revenge attack.

The boy thought that other children had "grassed" on him when teachers accused him of stealing computer equipment. The next day he took his father's shotgun from its cabinet, shortened the barrel with a hacksaw and set off for school on the bus.

When he arrived at school in northwest Scotland he told friends, to whom he had already mentioned revenge: "It's today." Police were called when he put the gun under his own chin and threatened to shoot himself.

At Edinburgh High Court yesterday the boy admitted possessing the gun in May with intent to cause others to believe that he would use unlawful violence. He also admitted carrying an airgun, ammunition and two knives to school on the same day.

The case was adjourned pending the preparation of reports. The boy was ordered to stay at a secure school.

Security blunders aided IRA escape

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A PRISON officer was shot in the stomach as five IRA terrorists and an armed robber exploited security weaknesses to break out of a maximum security jail, a jury was told yesterday.

John Kettleborough was the first officer at Whitemoor jail in Cambridgeshire to try to stop the escape two years ago. He saw a hole had been cut through the inner fence of a special secure unit and ran towards the escapees.

Suddenly he felt as though he had been kicked in the ribs. A ricocheting bullet had struck him. He staggered for safety and other officers dived for cover. Woolwich Crown Court was told.

The prisoners had managed to obtain two automatic handguns. They used ropes made of knotted bedsheets and smuggled cutting equipment to cut through two wire fences and scaled a 30ft concrete wall.

Prison officers were so surprised by the breakout that they did not switch on security cameras until four minutes after warning sirens sounded. One inmate was caught within

minutes but it took nearly two hours before all six were back behind bars.

Paul Magee, 48; Liam McCotter, 33; Gilbert McNamee, 36; Liam O'Duibhir, 34; Peter Sherry, 31, and non-IRA prisoner Andrew Russell, 34, deny trying to escape and firearms charges. Magee denies an additional charge of assault occasioning grievous bodily harm on the prison guard.

David Walters, for the prosecution, told the court the escape and its preparation were facilitated by "an over-readiness, perhaps, to agree to prisoners' wishes and demands". He said it was an attitude which "undoubtedly allowed the defendants to acquire items and prepare equipment without being discovered".

The court heard the attempt was aided because the motor of a mobile camera had been switched off after one prisoner complained about the lack of privacy. The escapees took full advantage of the resulting "blindspot" next to the perimeter fence.

The trial continues.

Crazy Gang issues stinging rebuke to 'jellyfish' Lineker

By ROBIN YOUNG

FOOTBALL'S notorious hardman Vinnie Jones and his Wimbledon team-mates launched a stinging counter-attack on football's "Mr Nice Guy", Gary Lineker, yesterday. They called the former England captain a loser and "as wet as a jellyfish".

The remarks were provoked by strong comments that Lineker made about Jones, Paul Gascoigne and the Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson. Lineker told *Radio Times* that Jones was a "self-hyped personality" who "isn't a good player" and was "no benefit to the game". He had previously said that the only way to watch Wimbledon, much criticised for their robust style of play, was on Teletext.

He described Ferguson as "a strange bloke, irritated by everyone, I think". Of Gascoigne, the England star now playing for Glasgow Rangers, Lineker said: "Gazza has an in-built self-destruct button, like a naughty schoolboy. When you talk to him, it goes



as wet. He is a jellyfish without a sting and, in a war, he would have been the first to line up - behind Vinnie Jones — and the first to run for cover. The men he has attacked are all winners by nature and deed and he clearly envies them for one thing he will never have — a personality."

The Wimbledon team Barcelonista, Tottenham, Everton and Leicester striker was abusing his position at the BBC by smearing fellow professionals such as Jones, the Wimbledon captain.

Lineker's agent, Jon Holmes, said that Lineker would not be commenting on the latest attack. But he joked:

"The accusation that Vinnie Jones is on holiday, was trying to beef up his image.

It read: "In his typical selfish way, Lineker is trying to promote himself as a strong man with strong opinions. But it can never happen. He will always be perceived as a wimp. Lineker has the charisma of a jellyfish — and is just



'Stalker' cleared of causing harm

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A YOUNG woman wept yesterday as the man she accused of stalking her for four years walked free from court.

After a week-long trial during which he defended himself, Dennis Chambers, 37, a van driver of no fixed address, was found not guilty of affray and causing grievous bodily harm to Margaret Bent, 29. As she was comforted by friends outside court, Miss Bent called for a change in the law and said she felt she

had endured a "real ordeal". She was cross-examined by Chambers in the witness box as part of his defence.

Miss Bent, who has managed a fast food cafe in Brixton for 11 years, said she did not feel she would be able to return to her job.

She had told Judge Quentin Campbell that Chambers followed her and repeatedly called to see her after becoming obsessed early in 1992.

Anthony Fogg, for the prosecution, had told the jury of eight women and four men at Inner London Crown Court that

stalking was not an offence in law, but the Crown's case was that the cumulative effect of the stress caused by Chambers amounted to serious psychological harm.

The judge said that the jury had to consider whether Miss Bent had suffered serious psychiatric damage. "You might think she suffered annoyance, panic and emotional distress. That alone would not be sufficient."

Chambers has two previous convictions for affray relating to Miss Bent, for which he received non-custodial sentences.

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Vatican insists celibacy rule is unchangeable as liberal pressure grows

Single devotion that has driven away thousands

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Vatican stood firm on celibacy for priests and nuns yesterday despite Cardinal Hume's apparent call for flexibility. A Vatican spokesman said the Pope "insists on mandatory celibacy in the Latin Church. He does not want to change the rules."

But campaigners against the rule welcomed the debate opened up by the Bishop of Argyll case. Guido D'Altri, head of Vocatio, the organisation of Italian married priests, said 10,000 priests had left the Church over the past 20 years to get married. There are at present 40,000 priests serving in Italy.

A further 20,000 have left the Church in America for similar reasons in the past two decades. One senior figure who has hinted at the need for "flexibility" is Carlo Maria Martini, the Archbishop of Milan, who is seen as the liberal candidate to succeed John Paul II as Pope.

He has pleaded for tolerance on sexual issues and recently observed that, although celibacy would remain in force, "it may be possible for local adjustments to be made". He said he believed that celibacy would continue because of its spiritual values, but it was "not unthinkable" for the Church to adapt it.

In the United States, a survey of parish priests in *The New York Times* showed that 55 per cent believed they should be allowed to marry. There is also pressure created by former Protestant clergy who converted to Catholicism and are allowed to remain married. Nearly 100 American Catholic priests are married former Protestants. They argue that it is easier for them to advise couples.

A. W. Richard Sipe, author of *A Secret World: Sexuality and the Search for Celibacy* and a lecturer at Johns Hopkins University, said he had concluded after 30 years of research that only half of Catholic priests practised celibacy, and that the Church

turned a blind eye to "lapses". In the Third World priests with wives or mistresses are common: it is estimated that half of Filipino priests have wives or concubines, according to Corpus (the Corps of Reserved Priests United for Service), which speaks for resigned priests in the United States.

American Catholics were galvanised last year by *A Most Profound Priest*, a book by Anthony Girondola, who signed as a priest in Bridgeport, Connecticut, to marry and have children. He said:

"Concubinage was rare in the Church in periods after that, in particular in the 15th century. In the 16th century, celibacy was abolished in the Church of England, recognising the marriage of Archibishop Thomas Cranmer."

But since the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, the debate has opened up, with opponents of celibacy arguing that Vatican II texts agreed that celibacy was not a dogma but "a rule". After the council, some older married men were allowed to become deacons. Deacons assist at the liturgy but cannot celebrate the Eucharist or give absolution.

The present Pope insisted when he took over in 1978 that "dispensations" would no longer be permitted and that all priests must be faithful to their vows at all times. The priesthood was "an indissoluble matrimony with the Church". He said in 1992: "Virginity, chastity and celibacy retain their original meaning. They enable people to devote themselves to God with an undivided heart."

Dean Hoge, professor of sociology at Catholic University in Washington, said the number of young men becoming priests would quadruple if the ban on marriage were removed. Liberals say marriage would reduce the incidence of paedophilia and homosexuality in the clergy, and point out that several Popes in history fathered children, including the Borgia Pope, Alexander VI, who had at least four.

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Cardinal Martini: liberal candidate

"Why the Church continues to deny one of life's greatest joys and gifts to priests is beyond me." Father Girondola is planning a second book, *Fathers Should get Married*.

Bert Peeters, former president of the International Federation of Married Priests, said: "In the early Church, marriage of priests, bishops and even Popes was not a problem. At the beginning of the 5th century married priests were asked not to have sexual relations with their wives before celebrating the Eucharist. It was not until a century later that it was tacitly forbidden for priests to have sexual relations at all."

The earliest canonical statement on celibacy was at the

4th-century Council of Elvira, but there were married priests and bishops until the 12th century. Partly in order to prevent priests passing Church property to offspring, celibacy was made compulsory for the Latin Church's priesthood by the second Lateran Council of 1139.

Concubinage was rare in the Church in periods after that, in particular in the 15th century. In the 16th century, celibacy was abolished in the Church of England, recognising the marriage of Archibishop Thomas Cranmer.



Pope Alexander VI and courtesans celebrate his daughter Lucrezia Borgia's marriage

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

THE celibacy of priests is one of a number of contentious issues of church doctrine that have recently provoked an open split in the Roman Catholic hierarchy in the United States.

The number of Catholic priests in the United States has fallen from 36,000 in 1965 to 33,000 and is projected to slip to 21,000 by 2005 with more than half of them over 55. The slump coincides with a boom in the Catholic popula-

tion of America which, fuelled by the immigration and high birth rates among Hispanics and Asians, has increased from 40 million in 1965 to 60 million now and to 75 million in 2005.

At least partly due to the celibacy rule, would-be priests in America enter Catholic seminaries later in life. In 1965, 95 per cent were between 18 and 25. Now only 33 per cent are under 25, while 33 per cent are 26 to 31 and 33 per cent are older.

In an effort to bridge divisions, Cardinal Joseph

Bernardin of Chicago, who is dying of cancer, recently proposed a series of national conferences starting next spring to find "common ground" between Catholics. The initiative was based on a document by the National Pastoral Life Centre in New York, which called for discussion of such controversial topics as priestly celibacy, contraception, abortion and the ordination of women.

That paper caused a rare outburst of public criticism, however, by traditionalist Church leaders.

Vice-chancellors plan to charge £1,000 for tuition

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SOME universities are considering charging at least £1,000 a year for tuition. Vice-chancellors meeting at Sheffield University are expected tomorrow to endorse plans to charge students for tuition from the end of the century.

But some universities have indicated that they cannot wait that long for new funds. Huddersfield University has contingency plans to introduce fees of £1,000 next year and the London School of Economics is also to discuss the introduction of fees.

Other universities are expected to make similar moves if November's Budget does not

bring relief to higher education. Birmingham University is one to have considered charging fees of at least £1,000.

A submission to the Government's review of higher education will also recommend abolishing grants to help raise an extra £6 billion a year for higher education.

Alan Rutherford, the Vice-Chancellor of London University, has already told MPs and peers that fees would have to be considered before the review is completed if standards were to be maintained. London would not sacrifice quality to "churn out a mass of cheap, low-quality graduates".

The scheme to be put to the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals envisages fees of £1,200 a year, rising to £2,400 by 2005. Loans for maintenance costs would be increased to a maximum of £4,475 a year. Students would have 20 years to make repayments through National Insurance.

Doug Trainer, president of the National Union of Students, said his members would be "appalled" at proposals from the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals. They would lead to higher education being available only to those who could afford it.

Mr Trainer accused the vice-chancellors of a "cop-out" by looking to students instead of the Government to make good the deficit. "Students are prepared to make a contribution to the cost of their own education, through loans covering their living costs, but asking them to re-pay the cost of tuition as well is too much."

A Labour spokesman said the party did not propose asking students to contribute towards the cost of fees. "Once you start doing that, where do you draw the line? The danger is that you would end up with students paying all their fees."

The vice-chancellors' scheme would transfer about a third of the cost of tuition from the Government to students. Repayments would add about 3p in the pound to graduates' tax burden, although those on low incomes would have payments deferred.

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مكتبة من الأصل

Iron Lady turned squeamish over painted scenes of bloodshed

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

BARONESS THATCHER, whose fearlessness as Prime Minister earned her the sobriquet the Iron Lady, had an aversion to the sight of blood. She was so squeamish that she ordered several gory oil paintings at Chequers, the Prime Minister's country residence, to be hidden when she arrived in 1979.

According to Jane Uff, curator of the Chequers Trust, Lady Thatcher had been upset by several large canvases that depicted bloody hunting scenes and wounded animals. Miss Uff told the BBC Radio 4 programme *Inside Chequers*, broadcast yesterday, that Lady Thatcher had found the pictures "gruesome" and could not bear to have them prominently displayed.

The paintings to which she had most objected were *The Lion and the Mouse*, by Frans Snyders, and *Young Sportsman with Dog and Dead Game*, by Jan Fyt. Both had been part of the large Chequers art collection since the house, in Buckinghamshire, was bequeathed to the nation in 1917 by Lord Lee of Fareham.

As was her right, the Prime Minister had the offending paintings removed from principal rooms to smaller ante-chambers and back stair-

cases. Less disturbing paintings were put up in their place. "She didn't like blood and guts coming out of animals, which I can well understand," Miss Uff said. "She had them placed elsewhere so that they were not the first thing you saw when you entered the house."

Baroness Thatcher's hitherto unknown vulnerability will come as a surprise to former colleagues and supporters.

One former aide said: "She could wade through blood if she had to." Former aide

could wade through blood if she had to."

The gory paintings remain part of the Chequers collection. Most of the pictures are family portraits connected to the history of the house and its former owners. Others paintings were from the personal collection of the Lee family.

Chequers was close to Baroness Thatcher's heart. Unlike John and Norma Major who still live in Huntingdon, the Thatchers made it their



The Lion and the Mouse by Frans Snyders: Margaret Thatcher had this and other gory pictures banished to the back staircases at Chequers

13 died when coach driver 'had lapse of concentration'

By RICHARD DUCE

THIRTEEN people on a British Legion outing "drifted quietly" to their deaths when their coach driver either fell asleep or lost concentration, a court was told yesterday. Steven Brown lost control of the Volvo coach which crashed through a barrier and overturned into a water-filled culvert on the M4 near Bristol.

Ten people were killed at the scene and three others died in hospital. All were either war veterans or their relatives, Bristol Crown Court was told. The party had been returning to Dorset in May last year from a day-trip to a brewery in Cardiff organised by the Royal British Legion Club in Christchurch. Mr Brown, 40, of Bournemouth, denies a specimen charge that by dangerous driving he caused the death of Kathleen Coombes, 76.

Alun Jenkins, prosecuting, said there was no suggestion that Mr Brown had been drinking or had been speeding when the coach left the motorway between the Severn Bridge and the Almondsbury interchange on the hot and sunny afternoon. "But this driver either fell asleep or failed to maintain his concentration — perhaps because of the nature of the afternoon — in circumstances where he should have maintained his attention and should have stayed awake," he said.

He described how, on a gradual bend, the coach "drifted quietly" off the motorway. It smashed through post-and-rail fencing and tumbled into the ditch.

Mr Jenkins said Mr Brown had started work at 7.25am

and had picked up his British Legion party about 8am. They arrived at the brewery some four hours later.

He emphasised that Mr Brown was not seen to drink during the brewery tour and the prosecution was not claiming he had driven for excessive hours. Mr Jenkins said that a car driver who was following the coach before the crash saw no brake lights or any violent movement.

He said the jury would also hear evidence that the coach's tachograph recording device provided no evidence of hard braking or violent movement. Neither was there evidence that an obstacle, such as a wooden pallet, had forced the coach driver to take evasive action.

Mr Jenkins said: "Here there is a driver who has 40 people's lives in his hands. He must have felt tired and that tiredness may have resulted in him falling asleep. It certainly resulted in him losing concentration."

If that was the case, he said, then it was beyond doubt that the driving of a man in charge of a public service vehicle fell below the standard of competence required. "In the circumstances of this case it must have been obvious that you could not take risks of falling asleep when you are likely to kill or injure."

Brian Gwynne, the coach owner from Laguna Travel, Bournemouth, told the jury that Mr Brown was a "loyal and faithful man". He was still employed as a driver by the company. The trial continues today.

Jogger wife stabbed her husband

By A STAFF REPORTER

A WIFE subjected to 13 years of mental and physical cruelty snapped when her drunken husband made her go jogging to lose weight while he followed in a car.

She stabbed him five times after telephoning police and telling them that she intended to take her revenge, a court was told yesterday. However, Mary Connors asked the desk sergeant how best to avoid plunging the knife in her victim's heart as she did not want to kill him "because the children like their father".

Mrs Connors, 30, a mother of five, was sentenced to two years' probation — including psychiatric supervision — at Teesside Crown Court. The jury was told that James Connors made his wife go running late one night near their home in Thornaby-on-Tees. The next day she attacked him.

Mrs Connors admitted wounding. However, the court was told that her husband had refused to make an official

£1m royal stamps go on display

By ALAN HAMILTON

TWO of the rarest stamps in the world, valued at more than £1 million each, are the star attractions at an exhibition which draws on the Queen's collection.

Both are from Mauritius, dated 1847, and one, an unused twopenny, is regarded as the finest specimen in the royal collection. It was bought by the future King George V at auction in 1904 for £1,450, then a world record price.

Courtiers said of George V that he spent his entire life shooting defenceless birds or sticking stamps in albums. His collection ran to 325 volumes. When the Mauritius twopenny came up for auction, he is said to have instructed his agent to telegraph him at Sandringham if he was able to buy it, but on no account to mention the price. When a courtier subsequently asked him if he had heard that some fool had paid £1,450 for a stamp, he replied: "I was that fool."

The exhibition opens at the National Postal Museum in

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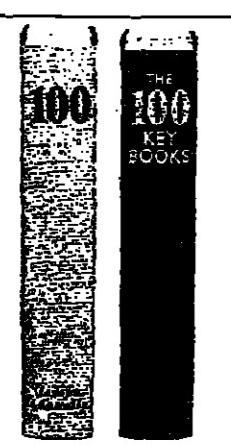
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Government accuses Germany of failing to observe international accord

Britain pleads for abducted children

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

GERMANY was named by the Government yesterday as the worst offender for harbouring children snatched by a parent in "tug-of-love" cases, against the spirit of the 43-nation Hague Convention on Child Abduction.

In a highly unusual step, the Lord Chancellor's Department said that the German authorities had been loath to observe the international agreement to return youngsters to their resident country in custody cases. Last year 17 cases from England and Wales led to formal requests to Germany, yet none of the children was returned to its lawful parent by judicial process. Four were handed over voluntarily.

Officials in the Lord Chancellor's Department accused the German courts of hiding behind legal technicalities which allowed countries to override the obligation to repatriate a child if he or she would be "in danger" if returned, or the child was mature enough to express a wish.

Ministers plan to condemn the conduct of Germany — and to a lesser extent the United States, Greece and Spain — next March at a Special Commission of the Hague Convention to review the operation of procedures governing international child abduction. Gary Streeter, Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, pledged that Britain would take the lead.

According to government statistics, there were 156 applications last year for the return of children to England and Wales, and 158 applications from other countries to Britain, involving a total of 488

children. The case of Catherine Layle, whose estranged German husband abducted their two sons in 1994, has been a key to the Government's strong response.

Ms Layle has fought a long battle with the German courts after judges refused to recognise a British High Court order demanding their return. Mr Streeter said: "All we feel is compassion for the children caught up in abduction cases. The Hague Convention has been a reasonable success. Now we are seeking to improve the workings."

In England and Wales, cases from abroad are referred directly to the High Court for an order for the return of the child. The application automatically attracts legal aid. Mr Streeter said that, if necessary, children are escorted on to an aircraft. He wants other countries to go some way towards a uniform response by establishing "best practice" principles.

Ministers want to strengthen adherence to the general principle that, in cases where the abducted child expresses a wish to remain in the country to which they have been taken, the decision of the courts in the child's native country should take precedence. An international arbitration panel has also been suggested.

Reunite, the National Council for Abducted Children, estimates that more than 1,000 were taken from Britain each year and only a fraction were returned. Denise Carter, director of the council, emphasised the need for a fast-track appeals system like Britain's. "The longer a dispute goes on, the more difficult it becomes to repatriate a child."



CATHERINE LAYLE has had no contact with her sons Alexander, 11, left, and Constantine, 9, since she spoke to them by telephone in December 1994. She was travelling to Paris yesterday on the latest leg of her physically and financially exhausting battle to win them back.

The Children Behind A Wall, which charts her struggle. Although she is still

I have no rights, says mother of snatched boys

search of a British publisher, her story has already prompted the Lord Chancellor's Department to act. Officials in the department said that her plight was one of the spurts behind ministers' determination to reform the dismal record of the Hague

High Court order demanding their return.

Legally Ms Layle, 43, from London, can see her children for four hours a month, but even this is denied to her. Her husband will not allow access for fear that she will snatch them back. "I have no rights," she said. "To my husband I would like to say: Think of the children. No man who loves his children could deny to them their right to have a mother."

Volunteers banned from releasing mental patients

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

STEPHEN DORRELL is to remove the power of lay health volunteers to discharge potentially violent mental patients from hospital.

The Health Secretary took action after Glen Grant, a double rapist who had schizophrenia, was released from a psychiatric unit by a panel of three health volunteers against the advice of a psychiatrist who had given warning that he might be violent. Four days later Grant raped again. He was given five life sentences by the Old Bailey in February.

A working group was set up to look at the system of discharging psychiatric patients. Mr Dorrell's move, announced yesterday, followed the publication of the working group's report. As soon as

a legislative slot can be found, he will strip "lay managers' panels" of what he called their "anomalous" rights to discharge patients detained under the Mental Health Act. His move was welcomed by the Royal College of Psychiatrists; whose members have been infuriated at their clinical decisions being overturned, and by the mental health campaign group SANE.

Although nationally, only 5 per cent of releases are made against medical advice, in one area that rose to 50 per cent. A mental patient who is "sectioned" — kept against his will for his or the public's safety — can apply to the panel of lay managers or to a mental health review tribunal, a formal body consisting of a lay member, a doctor and a legal chairman, to be released, with no guarantee of better decisions.

"Lay managers" exercise the

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Seabirds in decline after Pembroke oil disaster

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE population of seabirds on several islands off the Pembrokeshire coast has fallen in the wake of the *Sea Empress* disaster.

A report by the Government's wildlife advisers in Wales challenges claims that the oil spill in February was far less damaging than wildlife groups first believed. Mick Baines, of the Dyfed Wildlife Trust in Newport, Gwent, who has co-ordinated the surveys, said yesterday: "As far as seabirds are concerned, it has clearly had a significant impact."

Tony Prater, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said that the findings vindicated the charity's assertions at the time that the spill was serious. "It is going to take a long time to replace these lost birds. Guillemots only lay a maximum of one egg per pair," he said.

The surveys, published by the Countryside Council for Wales, show that, in and around the areas where the slicks appeared, some small colonies have declined by up to 58 per cent; bigger colonies have declined by up to 16 per cent. Colonies outside the affected areas have continued to rise, indicating that the falls can be linked to the tanker disaster rather than bad weather, normal illnesses or a decline in food reserves.

On St Margaret's Island there were 791 breeding guillemots in 1995 but the latest survey shows numbers are down to 334. "It is quite dramatic," Mr Baines said. Although the ledges had been stained white from years of guillemot occupation, this year there were just a few desultory birds standing around".

At Skomer and Elegug

Stacks, more than 2,650 birds have disappeared, with some colonies down by 16 per cent. Mr Baines said that, although some colonies there had maintained their numbers, the overall population was lower than expected.

Numbers of breeding guillemots and razorbills had been rising in Pembrokeshire over many years by between 5 and 6 per cent. "So the lack of increase at these colonies is probably due to the oil spill," Mr Baines said.

Dr Malcolm Smith, director of policy and science at the Countryside Council for Wales, said: "The monitoring studies we commissioned recorded 3,403 fewer guillemots breeding in south Pembrokeshire this year than in 1995, a 17 per cent decline overall. In the area affected by the oil spill the numbers of other seabird species have also decreased."

"Shag and cormorant populations are reduced, and the razorbill population has declined by 7 per cent, over 400 birds," he said. "In north Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion, away from the oil spill, numbers continued to increase, with a thousand more guillemots breeding."

He added that the findings indicated that a large number of birds had died at sea, the deaths having been unrecorded. Mr Baines said the birds that had survived seemed to be producing eggs and chicks.

"But we do not know anything about the quality of the food they were feeding their chicks and whether or not that was contaminated."

Not until next year will the monitoring programme disclose if the quality of the food has had any longer-term ill effects.



Nigel Symes of the RSPB is helping to restore several heathland sites in Dorset

Heathland revival raises hope for rare species

By NICK NUTTALL

THE 200-year decline in Britain's heathlands has been reversed, raising hope for the survival of rare species including the sand lizard, the silver-studded blue butterfly, the Dartford warbler and the Dorset heath heather.

Over the past ten years the trend for areas of heathland to be lost to road, housebuilding and scrub has been halted and up to 550 hectares of damaged heath has been restored, experts will tell a conference in the New Forest today.

Graham Wynne, director of conservation at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "We have lost 72 per cent of heathlands since 1750 and the loss has continued right up to the late 1980s. But we seem to have stopped the rot."

However, he said that an upturn in the economy could bring the bulldozers back to these important British habitats, which account for a fifth of Europe's heaths. Many of the remaining heaths cling on in counties such as Dorset, Suffolk, Surrey and Hampshire where there are strong development pressures.

Mr Wynne said that by preserving heathlands, areas of land created by Bronze Age farmers and settlers and their animals, would benefit people

as well as wildlife. A survey by English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisory body, found that 90 per cent of people thought that heathland should be preserved. Most of those questioned used heaths for walking and bird-watching.

The revival in the fortunes of Britain's heaths has come partly from the recession and partly from more than £1 million given by BP and the European Union under the European Life programme.

Helpers set land ablaze

A GROUP trying to preserve an ancient heath set fire to it instead. Hundreds of rabbits and hedgehogs were killed when flames up to 50ft swept half a mile across the coastal heath near RAF Woodvale at Southport, Merseyside, on Sunday night.

The fire started as volunteers in the Sefton Coast Life Project, which is partly funded by English Nature, tried to remove gorse for National Heathland Week. The group accepted responsibility for the "sad but not unrecoverable loss".

Nigel Symes, the RSPB's Dorset heathland project manager, said yesterday that several sites were being restored, including Blackhill Heath, part of which were overrun with bracken, and Grange Heath where dense scrub was taking hold. At Trig Heath, near Wareham, restoration had encouraged the return of small numbers of breeding pairs of heathland birds such as wood lark and nightjar.

Britain is committed to helping 16 species and several habitats, including heaths under its recently announced biodiversity strategy, which meets commitments made by the Prime Minister at the Earth Summit in Rio. There are 45,000 hectares of heathland left in Britain, mostly in England. The strategy calls for a 10 per cent increase by 2005, which will cost about £675,000.

Mr Wynne said that, where heaths were under threat, their future was largely in the hands of government agencies, including Forestry Enterprise and the Ministry of Defence. He urged landowners to take up grants offered by English Nature and the Forestry Commission for the restoration of heaths and return of grazing animals.

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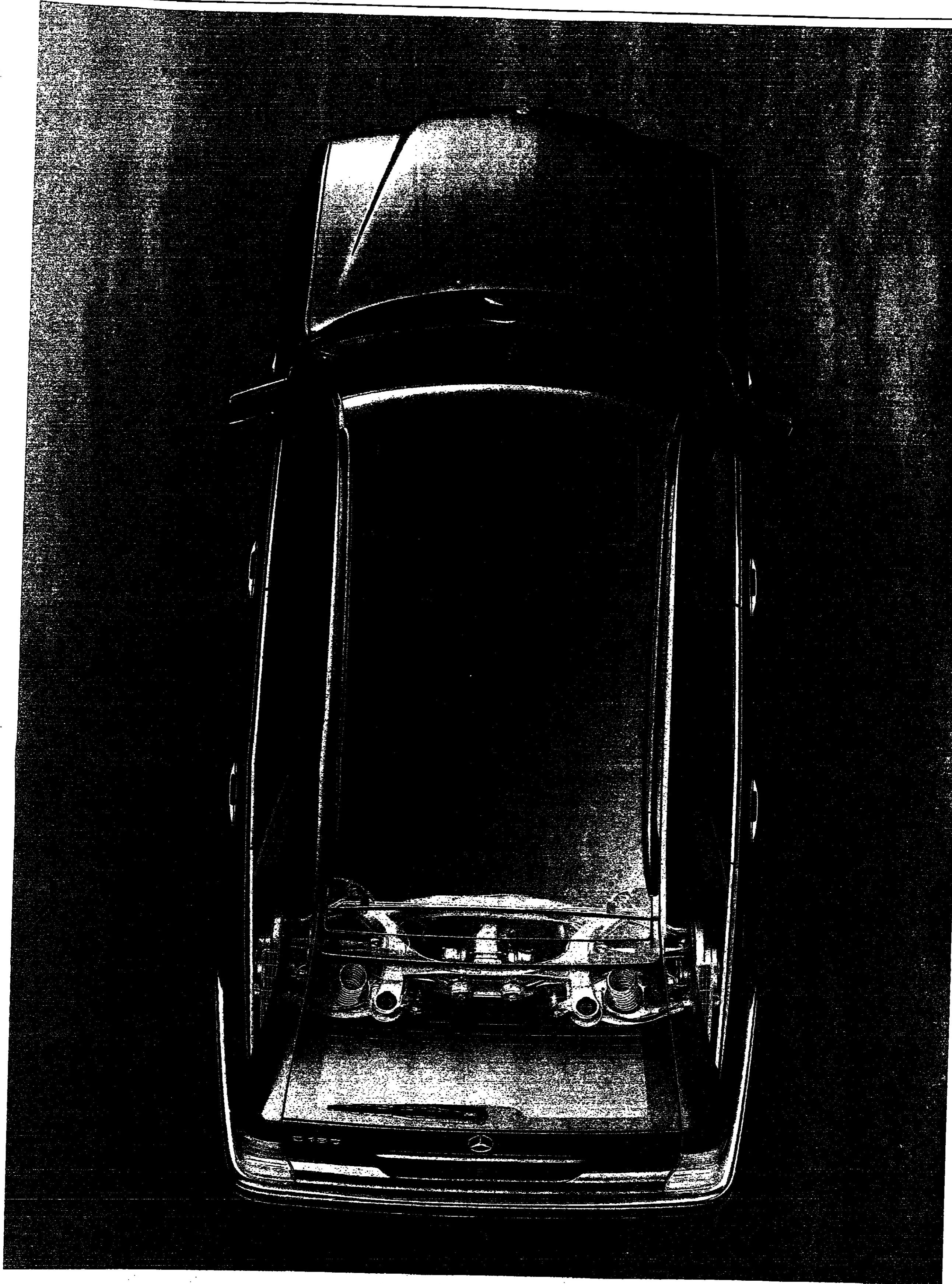
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Franco-German drive for unity slows to a crawl in fog of misunderstanding

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A DENSE fog settled over southwest Germany yesterday morning, disrupting attempts by French and German financial chiefs to stage a much-needed display of unity as Europe heads for a round of crucial summits. Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, was up early to greet his French colleague, Jean Arthuis, but his team searched the sky in vain for a sign of the helicopter from Paris.

In the end the ministers, later joined by central bank governors

and economics ministers, made do with a snatched session in an airport lounge, abbreviated goodwill ceremonies and a hollow-sounding declaration in which both countries vowed that they were well on course for European monetary union.

The fog, however, set the mood of the day for rarely has there been so much mutual bewilderment about the motives and intentions of the two partners who claimed to be the engine of the European Union. Germany's 1997 budget, unveiled last week, puts the coun-

try on course to meet the entry criteria for monetary union. But much depends on the reliability of the growth forecast and a number of incomplete sums including the estimates of tax revenue for next year. Herr Waigel certainly reckons on the need for yet another round of spending cuts that will bite into state payments.

France presents its budget today and this, too, will see swinging cuts in the civil service and in subsidies to meet the EMU target.

No amount of coffee and sandwiches yesterday could wash away

the impression that Germany suspects France of trying to meet the Maastricht targets with creative book-keeping, while France suspects the Germans of wanting to engineer a delay in the start-up date for the common currency.

That is a rough approximation of the whole Franco-German relationship. The drive for monetary union has brought the countries together, but it has also increased the number of cross-frontier resentments. Why cannot the Bundesbank help the French by chopping interest rates — a case of

Frankfurt versus Franc Fort? Why do the Germans not come up with bolder initiatives? Why are the French not communicating more? Why do they pretend that the Franco-German relationship has not changed since unification?

French and Germans have scores of ministerial meetings every year, yet German officials confide they achieve much more in their rarer, more candid, encounters with the British.

Dominique Bocquet, who was general secretary of the European Movement between 1991 and 1996,

urges France to shed its indecisiveness about European policy, to accept that Germany is no longer acting from a position of weakness and to develop a more respectful relationship with the smaller EU states that currently find Germany a more sympathetic partner. The Germans have their own complaints. They say that lack of consultation is constantly wrongfooting them. French nuclear testing in the Pacific, plans to get rid of military conscription, confusing the mission of the Franco-German brigade, vagueness about joint

arms projects, even a possibility that France may adjust its clocks to a different time from Germany: all are irritating Bonn beyond measure.

Consolation dinners between Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, and President Chirac are held every six weeks — but they are an unsatisfactory substitute for the long, often philosophical, phone calls with François Mitterrand.

"The Chancellor doesn't like surprises," said a German official who has been charting the relationship.

Rifkind calls for swift expansion of Nato by 1999

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

SOME former Warsaw Pact countries queuing to join Nato should be welcomed into the fold by 1999, according to Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary. In the first concrete declaration that Britain wants to see an enlargement of the alliance before the end of the century.

"I hope that the first new members of Nato will be with us at the table in 1999 when Nato celebrates its fiftieth anniversary," Mr Rifkind is to say in a wide-ranging speech in Zurich today, 50 years after Churchill made a ringing call for a unified Europe in the same Swiss city.

Mr Rifkind will temper his enthusiasm for swift Nato enlargement with a ring of caution to the potential newcomers, however, saying they "will have to show what they can contribute to the security of the alliance: not just what they will receive in return".

The Foreign Secretary will also stress Britain's commitment to Europe, but says that "there is a lesson for Europe's leaders: we should not proceed down a path of integration faster or further than our people are prepared to go".

Mr Rifkind will add that Churchill did not expect or want Britain to be part of a United States of Europe, but had referred in his 1946 speech to Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union being "the friends and sponsors of the new Europe".

"Britain has a policy agenda to meet Europe's real join," Mr Rifkind will say. "We want to strengthen European defence co-operation, to enhance our security."

He will urge people not to become "obsessed by internal institutional wrangling ... if we want to help millions of our citizens find jobs, let us promote competitiveness and free trade, not force on employers the dogmatic prescriptions of the Social Chapter".

The Foreign Secretary believes it "would be odd in the

extreme, at a time when countries across Europe wish to come on board, for Britain or any other member to elect to walk the plank off the other side. But I reject, too, the ratchet of unending institutional integration that is a decade behind the reality of a competitive, decentralised world".

Mr Rifkind will also praise Germany and stress the importance of the reconciliation between France and Germany, describing the ties between Paris and Bonn as "a foundation for Europe's renaissance".

After proclaiming that Europe owes its security and prosperity to Nato and the European Union, the Foreign Secretary will declare: "The new Germany itself embodies a spirit of reconciliation."

"A united, democratic Germany is not a threat to Europe," he will tell his audience at Zurich University.

After a week in which German leaders have expressed plans to play a greater role in the Balkans, Mr Rifkind will comment: "I welcome Germany's growing contribution to shouldering the modern burden of international security — her prime role in Nato and the Western European Union, her military presence implementing peace in Bosnia, and her active world diplomacy."

"The more polarised the debate becomes, the more our European neighbours will become convinced that Britain's arguments ... should not be taken seriously during this key preparatory stage," Sir Leon told a Brussels congress, adding: "Now is the time Britain should remain open-minded about the single currency."

Leading article, page 19



A US tank crewman guards a supply route checkpoint in Kuwait yesterday

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Yeltsin ordered to stay in hospital for tests

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

DOCTORS conducting tests on President Yeltsin yesterday ordered the Kremlin leader to remain in hospital until the end of the week, prompting fears of fresh health problems.

Kremlin doctors said that the ailing President would be kept for further tests at the elite Central Clinic.

The examinations were described as a "routine pre-operation procedure" ahead of his planned multiple bypass operation set for this autumn.

"I do not see a big problem with the President's health," said Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the presidential spokesman, who joked that over-eager physicians were to blame for the lengthy stay in hospital.

"The doctors are delighted

that they have finally got their hands on him in hospital as an in-patient."

However, there were indications that medical complications could be responsible for the extended stay in hospital. Earlier Sergei Mironov, the Kremlin's chief physician, said that the open-heart surgery, tentatively scheduled for the end of September, could now be delayed.

Experts believe that the

Lebed 'settles' Chechen row

Moscow: General Aleksandr Lebed said yesterday that he had resolved a potentially explosive stand-off between Chechen rebels and Russian forces (Richard Beeston writes). Speaking after meetings with Chechen rebel leaders and army commanders, the Kremlin's security chief said that he had overcome a week-long dispute over the release of prisoners and that the stalled Russian troop withdrawal from the breakaway republic would now resume.

ing from some other health problem which would require treatment before the bypass operation. Pavel Voshchanov, a former Kremlin spokesman, has said that Mr Yeltsin was suffering from kidney problems, cirrhosis of the liver, a bad back, angina pectoris, a chronic infection of the middle ear and a sleeping disorder.

A final decision on when to carry out the operation is expected only after a meeting

of Russian doctors with American and German heart specialists, expected on September 25 or 26.

The mounting speculation over the President's health has been complicated by confusion over how long he will be incapacitated and how Russia will be run in his absence. It is widely accepted that Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, will assume most of the duties of the head of state.

But details still have to be completed on the handing over of power, particularly the transfer of the "red button" for firing nuclear weapons.

Although President Yeltsin has been praised for breaking the Kremlin's traditional shroud of secrecy around medical matters, the move has led to unprecedented public interest. Opposition politicians have wasted little time exploiting the situation.

Yesterday Viktor Ilyukhin, a Communist Party legislator who heads the parliamentary security committee, said he would press for a "state medical commission" to monitor the health of senior leaders and ensure no officials seized the chance of a President's illness to rule instead.

Strike may unseat governor

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

THE governor of Russia's Far East province was fighting to stay in his job yesterday as more than 10,000 power workers went on indefinite strike.

The strike has not only brought darkness to factories and flats in Vladivostok, where more than two million people live. It is also the first showdown between Anatoli Chubais, the new liberal Kremlin chief of staff, and one of several provincial governors who have turned into petty monarchs.

Yevgeni Nazdratenko, frequently the scourge of liberals, the Chinese Government and the Moscow media, admitted at a Moscow press conference yesterday that he may soon have to resign.

The governor is under attack from all sides. There are threats of more strikes and demands from workers' committees that the Government introduce direct presidential rule for the region.

Mr Nazdratenko has to report to the Kremlin within the next two days on what he has done to comply with the presidential decree ordering him to meet all debts to the local power industry.

Fresh arrests revive Italian bribe scandal

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE head of Italian state railways has been arrested in what is being seen as a dramatic re-emergence of the *tangentopoli*, or bribery, scandals which rocked the country four years ago.

Lorenzo Nucci, 57, hitherto regarded as one of Italy's most promising top managers and a candidate for ministerial office, will be questioned today on a range of charges including embezzlement, fraud, corruption, false accounting and belonging to a "criminal organisation".

However, five more arrests, including two magistrates, were announced yesterday in connection with the Nucci case. The *tangentopoli* investigations began in 1992, 2,000 politicians, officials and businessmen were charged, including Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister.

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and have collected over 100,000

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Killer says Botha gave orders for terror bombing

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN PRETORIA

A FORMER police assassin claimed in court yesterday that P.W. Botha, the former South African President, and several other senior ministers were involved in "dirty tricks" operations and admitted his own part in the bombing of the African National Congress's London headquarters in 1982.

Eugen de Kock — convicted last month on 89 charges, including murder, attempted murder, fraud and gun-running — told the Pretoria Supreme Court that in the late 1980s he was ordered by Brigadier Willem Schoon to blow up the Johannesburg headquarters of the anti-apartheid Congress of South African Trade Unions. He was told by his boss that the order had been given by Mr Botha.

"I was amused, because we are now talking about terrorism on home ground," he told the hushed courtroom. "I asked him who gave the orders. He told me it came from the highest authority. I asked if this included the President and he said 'yes'."

Now 80 and living at a seaside home after retiring in 1989, Mr Botha has refused to discuss "dirty tricks" allegations or to co-operate with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which is investigating apartheid crimes. The commission has the power to subpoena him.

De Kock admitted that he was part of a team that flew to London in 1981 to blow up the ANC headquarters and acknowledged the killing of several people in cross-border raids in southern Africa. The

bomb was planted behind the ANC headquarters in Penzion Street, Islington, and exploded on March 14, 1982, shortly before 9am, as market stallholders were beginning work. Shops, offices and pubs were damaged, but no one was seriously hurt.

De Kock, who once headed an apartheid death squad, is providing details about his knowledge of the apartheid regime's "dirty tricks" against government opponents in the 1980s and early 1990s in the hope of a reduced sentence and an amnesty from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He has vowed privately that he would "not go down alone", and his counsel are clearly hoping that by implicating as many of his superiors as possible they can portray de Kock as one of many buttons on a large shirt.

The evidence by de Kock, the former commander of a counter-insurgency unit, could result in other trials. On Monday, he said Mr Botha must have known about a 1985 attack he led into neighbouring Lesotho on suspected ANC members in which ten died, and spoke about how other killings were carried out on orders from above.

During testimony yesterday de Kock portrayed himself as a plumber who was called on by security chiefs and politicians to do their dirty work. He recalled numerous occasions when he was contacted at his Vlakplaas base, near Pretoria, by superiors from across the country and re-

quested to intimidate or eliminate government opponents, assist in cover-ups and carry out sabotage operations. "At Vlakplaas, if we went for you, we went for you," he said.

As well as Mr Botha, de Kock named R.F. "Pik" Botha, the former Foreign Minister, Adriaan Vlok, the former Law and Order Minister, and several police and army generals who either ordered or knew about cross-border raids and attacks on government opponents inside South Africa.

He also said General Basil Smuts gave written approval for arms and ammunition to be supplied to the Inkatha Freedom Party for its war on the ANC and named several senior Inkatha officials who were involved in gun-running.

E.W. de Klerk, Mr Botha's successor, told the truth commission last month that he and other government leaders had never personally sanctioned "dirty tricks".

The Dalai Lama shares a joke with Kim Beazley, the Labor opposition leader during his two-week stay in the country, said he would do so next week if their programmes permit. His announcement prompted

China, within an hour, to threaten trade retaliation. Mr Howard, who is visiting Indonesia, said he understood the sensitivities of the

Chinese Government. "I have explained to the Chinese authorities that, naturally, the Australian Prime Minister decides, according to Australian interests, who the Australian Prime Minister sees," Mr Howard added. (Reuters)



Dalai Lama visit angers China



Members of the Muslim forensic team carry away remains of some of the victims of Srebrenica yesterday

Srebrenica's dead complete their journey of despair

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN KRAVICA, EASTERN BOSNIA

THE living in Bosnia may still find it difficult to move as they please, but the thousands of dead from Srebrenica are at last beginning to complete the journey to government-held territory they began over a year ago.

Yesterday a small group of Muslim forensic scientists and labourers from the Sarajevo-based Commission for Exchange and Missing, an organisation set up to facilitate repatriation for prisoners and the war dead, was allowed for the third day by the Bosnian Serbs to cross the lines and begin to remove the bodies of those killed as they fled from the abandoned United Nations "safe area" in July last year.

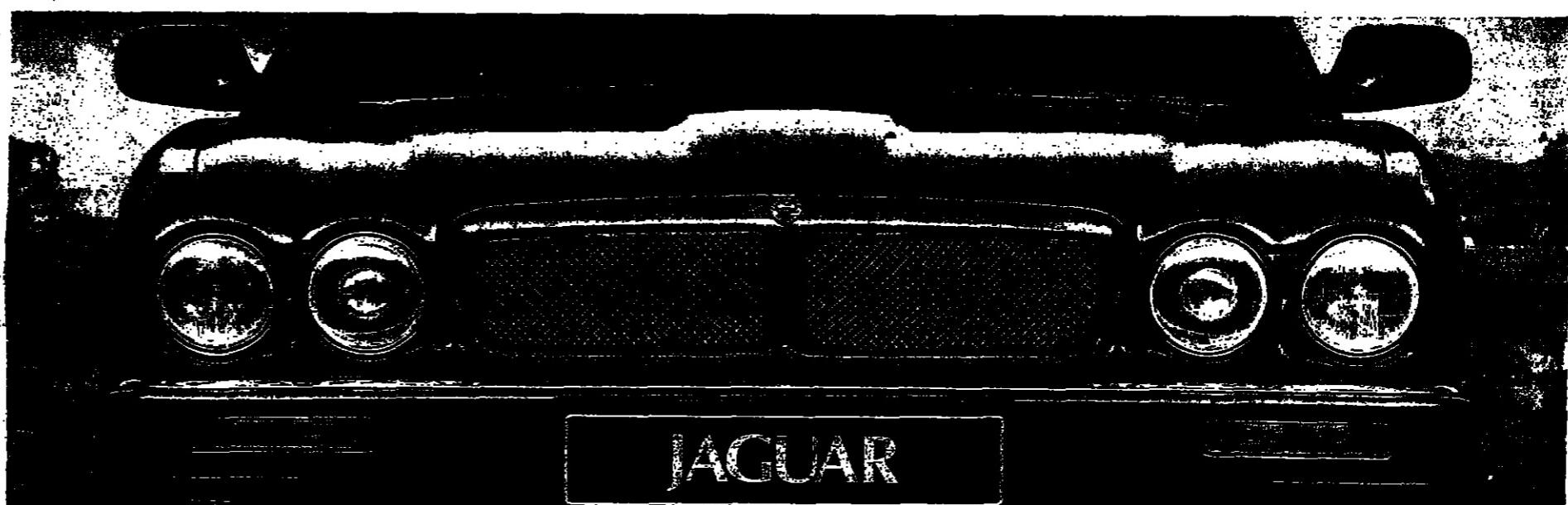
The rout turned into a massacre. About 15,000 Muslim men, most of them unarmed civilians, escaped from the fallen town across hills to the west. An estimated 3,500 succeeded; the rest are missing. Many surrendered to the Serbs and were murdered; most were hunted down and killed in the mountainous woodland.

Although war crimes investigators from The Hague exhumed and removed a few hundred bodies, the mass of bodies in the hills have lain undisturbed until now.

"We have started work along the first (mile and a quarter) of their escape route," said the head of the commission, "and we have already found hundreds of bodies. It will take us a month to complete the journey, by which time we estimate we will have collected over 10,000 dead."

As the trail begins, the first few corpses become visible through the undergrowth, bleached skulls and scattered bones merging with the foliage. Some remain complete and are given the dignity of a body bag for their journey to a mortuary in Tuzla; many others have been scattered

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Irish Republic	Weekends	99p	90p	90p	8%	81p	68p
China	Evenings	£6.47	£6.47	£5.14	20%	£4.63	£3.86
	Weekends	£6.32	£6.00	£4.80	24%	£4.32	£3.60
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Grip on drugs trade would give left-wing guerrillas greater firepower in war to topple Samper

Rebel fighters rule in Colombia's cocaine badlands

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN MOCOA, DISTRICT OF PUTUMAYO, SOUTHERN COLOMBIA

FRESHLY sprayed graffiti depicting the hammer and sickle covered the walls round the central square of the small agricultural town of Mocoa, on the edge of Colombia's southern Amazon region. Its narrow streets were desolate, and people peered fearfully from behind their bolted doors and windows.

The bullet-riddled body of a young soldier lay abandoned on a seat, with a handwritten message pinned to his uniform saying: "The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia are back. We will fight to the end to topple the corrupt Government of President Samper." The electricity supply to the town of 20,000 inhabitants was cut days ago after rebels blew up the power plant in a grenade attack and the modern concrete offices

that belong to the local government were now empty.

With the unpaved airstrip on the outskirts of town under fire constantly, the only access to Mocoa was by bus, across a checkpoint manned by armed guerrillas in battle fatigues.

It seemed like a scene from the Sixties and Seventies, when left-wing guerrilla groups across Latin America fought military regimes and took the armed struggle into rural areas. This time the conflict stems from two left-wing guerrilla groups who renewed their offensive against President Samper a month ago.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN) appear to have regrouped their estimated 15,000 armed fighters and

taken the Government by surprise.

They took over army bases in the southern district of Putumayo — of which Mocoa is the capital — Guaviare and Caquetá, killing more than 120 soldiers and 20 civilians. In the attack on the base in Putumayo, some 400 rebels invaded with machineguns, grenades and mortars. Sixty soldiers captured from the army base at Las Delicias in Caquetá are still being held as hostages by the rebels.

"The guerrillas have taken control of vast areas and forced our security forces to take defensive action. Our forces were unprepared for this," Alfredo Rangel, a government spokesman, has admitted.

In the past week FARC and ELN rebels were reported to



Rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces on the march. Their offensive has surprised the Government

be in almost total control of most of the remote Amazonian lowland areas which make up southern Colombia, and were also launching attacks on central highland areas close to the country's main cities.

The military says the guerrillas are acting in response to recent government efforts to destroy coca-leaf crops, used in the manufacture of cocaine, in the south. FARC makes money by providing armed protection to plantations and has in some areas moved into

arranging drug shipments. Attempts to eradicate coca fields have led in past weeks to violent protests by the coca farmers or campesinos, and in most cases the guerrillas have moved into cocaine-producing jungle areas and will have more firepower if they can

The Defence Minister, Juan Carlos Esguerra, says that the recent revival of the guerrilla campaign is particularly worrying because rebels have moved into cocaine-producing jungle areas and will have more firepower if they can

Butcher to die for massacre of Sikhs

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

A BUTCHER who massacred Sikhs with a meat cleaver in three days of rioting in 1984 has been sentenced to death, one of a small number of people belatedly brought to trial for one of the worst atrocities in modern Indian history.

The anti-Sikh riots came after the murder of Indira Gandhi, then Prime Minister, by her Sikh bodyguards. The Gandhi family has consistently resisted a full investigation into the slaughter. Leading Congress Party politicians egged on the rioters, at times taking to the streets and demanding more deaths. Thousands of Hindu policemen stood by and some of them took part.

Accounts of how many Sikhs died in Delhi and elsewhere in northern India vary widely. Khushwant Singh said in *A History of the Sikhs* that the figure of 10,000, with more than half the victims in the capital, "would not be an exaggeration". After the riots more than 50,000 Sikhs were lodged in refugee camps in Delhi. Between 20,000 and 30,000 families fled their homes and moved to Punjab.

The first convictions are small comfort for the hundreds of widows who live in bleak government flats in the Tilak Vihar district of Delhi, known unofficially as Widows' Colony. All the women filed affidavits years ago detailing the circumstances of their husbands' deaths, but the files simply gathered dust. The names of the ringleaders are common knowledge. Few have been interviewed by the police, let alone arrested.

The recent trials have heard vivid descriptions of the three days of butchery, looting and rape. Witnesses described how the killers took meal breaks in between the slaughter. Men with weapons stood at the exit points of Sikh areas to ensure that nobody escaped while mobs bludgeoned, burnt or knifed to death anybody with a turban, usually in front of their wives and children. The police sometimes turned up to ensure that the killings were going well.

Witnesses described how drains were blocked by bits of bodies and piles of long hair cut from the Sikhs. A journalist saw a three-year-old girl who had crawled from under the bodies of her father and three brothers and was stumbling over other corpses in her one-room home, screaming: "Take me away."

Tormentor maimed as crocodile finally snaps

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

A GIANT crocodile that had been regularly jabbed in the stomach with a stick when it struck.

Mervyn Harrison, manager of Zimbabwe's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said she would prosecute the park's owners for cruelty, and was considering seeking an injunction to prevent the animal's destruction.

Witnesses at Harare Snake

WORLD SUMMARY

Syria troop movements unnerve US

Jerusalem: Intense American diplomatic efforts were underway yesterday to reduce tension between Israel and Syria prompted by massive Syrian troop movements inside Lebanon (Christopher Walker writes). The Israeli Army has been put on a state of alert.

Last night, Israeli sources said that the United States was especially anxious to restore calm, out of concern that such tension could destabilise the situation in the Middle East when its latest stand-off with Iraq has not yet been resolved.

Spain accused of 'Mengele' tests

Madrid: The Spanish Defence Ministry has declined to comment on a report that intelligence agents kidnapped vagrants in order to test drugs for use in the abduction of Basque separatists. *El Mundo* claimed that agents called the experiments Operation Mengele in reference to Josef Mengele, the Nazi death-camp doctor. (Reuters)

Mother Teresa stable after fall

Calcutta: Mother Teresa was alert, cheerful and in a stable condition yesterday as she recovered from a fall the previous day, doctors said. They added that a brain scan had shown no cause for alarm. The Roman Catholic nun, 86, who won the Nobel Peace Prize, will be kept under observation. (Reuters)

Public execution in the Comoros

Moroni: A man convicted of murdering a pregnant woman was publicly executed by an army firing squad in the Comoro islands in the Indian Ocean. Ali Youssouf, 25, was given a bottle of soft drink at his request before being tied to a post at the port in the capital, Moroni. (Reuters)

Ethiopia puts its fleet up for sale

Addis Ababa: Left without a coast after Eritrea won independence in 1993, Ethiopia is selling off its 16-vessel naval fleet. Eritrea is likely to win the bidding, but Djibouti, where the 16 vessels are at anchor, is among those to have made an offer. (AP)

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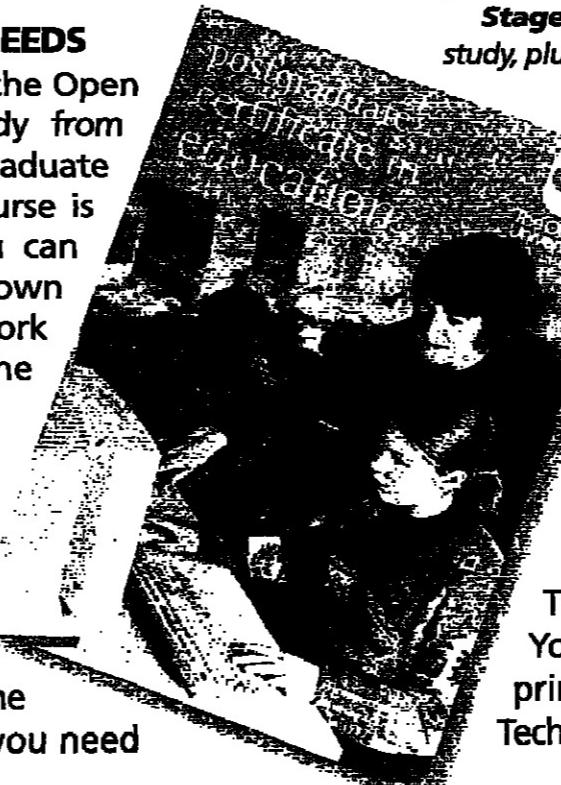
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The mistress of understatement

Iain R. Webb on Donna Karan's menswear line, Stretch & Sensibility, at her New Bond Street store



ABOVE: Grey fleck single button suit, £775; Donna Karan, black turtleneck, £200, Donna Karan Signature

ABOVE RIGHT: Brown velour single-breasted jacket, £695; rust cashmere turtleneck sweater, £550; Donna Karan. Camel wool mix coat (on chair), £950, Donna Karan Signature

Donna Karan Collection and Signature lines available from Donna Karan Collection, 19 New Bond Street, W1 Telephone inquiries (from tomorrow): 0171-495 3100



When it comes to getting dressed, New York designer Donna Karan advises men not to follow fashion trends. "Always keep it simple," she says. "A black suit can be a tux or it can look casual. It is better to

spend more on one good suit and buy less other things."

When Karan's first mainline collection store in the world opens in London tomorrow in bohemian New Bond Street, it will not only stock her women's wear line but also provide the opportunity to

British men finally to enjoy Karan's mainline menswear collection on this side of the Atlantic.

Naturally there will be a huge selection of good suits on the rails. There will also be plenty of great shirts, trousers, sports jackets and sweaters and although Karan may advocate a spartan uncluttered lifestyle she certainly makes up for it with sheer unadulterated luxury. All the knitwear in Karan's mainline menswear collection is cashmere.

The store will also offer the less pricey Donna Karan Signature, a range of mainsay pieces which sell for about 20 per cent less than the mainline. Signature was developed for the man who doesn't want to make a fashion statement but still wants stylish clothes. Although for the most part her clothes do carry expensive price tags, the Donna Karan look is never flashy. "When you see a well-dressed man you see the man, not the clothes," she says. Her latest advertisements feature bleached blond actor Bruce Willis alongside his wife, the

actress Demi Moore. Willis looks suitably blasé as he fastens a rumpled white shirt or hangs loose in a black sweater and camel coat.

"He has got sensuality and yet he is very male, very masculine," Karan says.

However, it is Karan's husband, Stephen Weiss, who acts as her muse. "He looks best in a black cashmere sweater and black pants," she says.

Understatement is Karan's mantra. Subtle (yet sumptuous) fabrication (cherille, lamb suede and double-faced cashmere all feature in the new collection), a moody colour palette (pale honey and warm reds mix with black, brown, navy, grey and creamy whites) and the traditional cut are her trademark. The designer never threatens, the image never scares. What Karan calls "stretching the limits of classicism".

With a nod to the Jane Austen fever sweeping Hollywood, Karan called her winter menswear line Stretch & Sensibility.

"Stretch now plays a big part in modern menswear. It

makes clothes more friendly. A suit jacket can be worn 24 hours of the day. My jackets now feel like sweaters but casual doesn't mean sloppy," she says.

Karan is already well established in the capital with her giant DKNY store just down the street from the new site. The store, which opened two years ago, sells a sportier, hip, street-smart look — all base-

ball caps and giant-sized logos. "DKNY is only half of me and Collection [the main line] is the other half." So why choose New Bond Street?

"From the beginning of the company [in 1985] I knew London was the place to be. Every time I come to London I feel like I've arrived at the

front door of Europe," Karan says. "It is a spiritual home for creative people."



ABOVE: Tan suede and leather jacket, £1,250; brown velour shirt, £175, Donna Karan

TOP: Grey single-breasted suit, £775; black crêpe shirt, £125, Donna Karan Signature

Photographs by IAIN R. WEBB
Hair and Grooming by Kevin Ford

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مكتبة من الأصل

Comedian David Baddiel reveals why he likes talking about sex; Nigella Lawson says that we talk about it too much

The confessions of a bit of a lad

David Baddiel
believes people
won't be offended
by his first novel.
Interview by
Mary Riddell

The net curtain picture worried David Baddiel. Prominently displayed on the cover of the proof copy of his new novel, the illustration had been printed in a smaller form on the final version.

Mr Baddiel scrutinised the result with the dismay of someone whose expensive sweater has shrunk to tea-cosy dimensions in the boil-wash. "If the cover is not quite what you want, it's a problem. People will think: 'Oh, David Baddiel hasn't got a very good cover on his book.' Do you know what I mean?"

Up to a point. The presentation of his first novel, *Time For Bed*, seems unlikely to offend the most ardent aesthete. Its contents are less anodyne: pornographic videos, masturbation, anal sex. Behind the imperfect net curtains lurks the predictable repertoire of post-laddish culture.

"I've always had a confessional streak in me and I've never had a problem with talking very openly about sex," he says. "I have a kind of gap in my soul where I don't worry about what I should say."

It would be unfair to suggest that Mr Baddiel's book is in the same genre as A.A. Gill's sexually-charged *Sap Rising*, subject of the greatest critical putch in the chronicles of contemporary fiction. On the other hand, while Mr Gill is scarcely an icon of youth, Mr Baddiel — co-presenter with Frank Skinner of television's *Fantasy Football* and author of *Three Lions On A Shirt* — is a universal hero to those who have recently outgrown Santa Claus and nor yet acquired a taste for Oasis.

He is, like most comedians, more angst-ridden than he would care to appear. The look is casual but there is something in his manner — a pout of cherubic lips when the phone rings, a peremptory way with his publicist — which suggest that working with him is a fraught business.

"Yes, I am quite difficult. I don't like putting people off but if I think that something should be done in a certain way, I am insistent." His previous partnership, with Rob Newman in *The Mary Whitehouse Experience* and later in their own show, fell



David Baddiel: "I have a gap in my soul where I don't worry about what I should say."

apart because they grew to loathe each other.

His double act with Frank Skinner, who lives in Mr Baddiel's Hampstead flat, has proved more enduring, al-

though for now their television partnership is at an end.

There is much in his novel which is less easy to explain away. In part autobiographical and in part very funny, its overload of sex reflects the drier side of blokeishness.

Baddiel (naturally) does not think he has overstepped the borders of humour and good taste. "The problem with laddishness is when it becomes self-conscious. Frank and I happened to arrive at a time when males were a bit ashamed of being male. We've never tried to exaggerate our maleness or to be graphically ugly about sex to prove how masculine we are."

From the beginning, he was attuned to a life of dissent. His father, who used to be a Unilever scientist and now sells Dinky cars in a London antiques market, was "very left-wing" and Baddiel adopted his views.

At Cambridge, where he achieved a double first in English, he combined radical politics with the Nick Hornby-inspired bokeish *Zeigeist* in which soccer and intellectualism were first deemed compatible. "I was part of various Marxist groups but I always used to be interested in football as well," he says. "I had a few mates in the football team and I was really looked down on by people on the Left."

Hence, perhaps, his current scorn for politics and politicians. "I've never voted, ever. The people I knew at Cambridge who became politicians were all second-rate minds."

Similarly, he avoided comedy centred on political correctness and Tory-bashing — "too Stoke Newington". Only football, such a lucrative vein for new lads and emergent comics, remained a passion. A Chelsea supporter, Baddiel is sanguine about the occasional anti-Jewish chants at Stamford Bridge. "Yido," he thinks, may safely be inter-

preted as an amicable greeting from well-disposed fans.

There is much in his novel which is less easy to explain away. In part autobiographical and in part very funny, its overload of sex reflects the drier side of blokeishness.

Baddiel (naturally) does not

The last time I wrote about sex and celibacy, my words were later — and gratifyingly in one sense — blown up on posters as part of an advertising campaign for the newspaper for which I then wrote and pasted all over the Underground. I mention this not to draw attention to myself, but rather to draw attention to the danger of writing about the subject, namely that it is hard to escape being inexpressibly vulgar. To sound off at all is to risk at best indecency and at worst grossness.

Such sensitivity about even broaching this culture of carnality is, I admit, telling. The conclusion I draw is that we are still embarrassed about sex. The dawning of the age of Aquarius and the supposed loosening of inhibitions, unravelling of taboos and radical change in sexual mores do not alter anything: it's still a nudie-subject.

Openness changes nothing if anything, it makes things worse. Certainly, on the evidence of the latest reaction to the missing Roman Catholic bishop and the simultaneous disappearance of his female parishioner, it would be hard to detect any maturity in our discussion of sex and celibacy. We remain obsessed.

The doing or not of the Catholic Church is in some senses a matter apart: certainly to most people they and it are irrelevant. But for all that, the enforced celibacy of Catholic clergy is not entirely beside the point. Although initially required by the Church as a way of safeguarding property, it is also the case that celibacy is equated with purity and cleanliness and next-to-Godliness. Therein lies much of the sexiness of the Catholic Church: it believes in sin, in the corruption of the ways of the flesh — and doesn't that make it all more exciting?

Those of us who have no business opining about the strictures of this or any other Church are still, culturally, influenced by this ethos. And that's what we seem to want. After all, the logical extension of the permissive society

How sex and celibacy lead to obsession

Society is still sniggering and repressed, despite the openness

should be that none of this is even a subject. Openness, or so the generation or so before mine zealously promised, would usher in a free society, uninhibited, unembarrassed and honest about sex. No more sniggering, no more smirking: we were to grow up at last.

But it hasn't happened. Rather, the sniggering has become endemic. If losing inhibitions means nothing more than a disrespect for privacy and a grotesque fascination with "bonking" then we have lost more than inhibitions.

The truth of course, is that we haven't lost these inhibitions: we just feel we should act as if we have, and that is bound to create a confused society. We are bombarded with more and more openly sexual images — ice-cream that essentially infantile foodstuff, is now purveyed as a post-coital pleasure — and yet we are becoming, at the same time, belligerently puritanical. What else explains the growth of the sexual harassment claim? No one now seems to be able to see when sexual behaviour is appropriate. On the one hand, we're told it always is, on the other never.

And really, the doing away with the old sexual taboos has simply seen the emergence of a new sexual taboo. Everyone is anxious instance of making a virtue out of a necessity, but however you look at it, it is surely symptomatic of this age of extremes. Sex has to be either everything or nothing. What's more, it all has to be done in the open. People brag about having sex, and brag about abstaining from it. But on the whole, no one is really convinced about the glories of abstinence. But if it is on the increase, one of the reasons is that sex gets ever more complicated. It's not just AIDS, but that no one now knows what the rules are. No one knows, or can even up to, what messages they want to give. To be thought of as sexy is both an honour and an insult.

Take clothes: the tarter

the wardrobe, the more the wearer insists that the intention is not to give sexual messages and the more offended she is that such a thing could even be construed. These days, it is considered fine to wear a see-through shirt in public or a dress that shows your knickers but quite beyond the pale to give a wolf-whistle. I'm not saying that wearing a mini-skirt is tantamount to asking to be raped (I make this protestation weary because I am prepared for the inevitable angry attack) but I do say that a degree of honesty would be welcome. But this confusion about sexual messages is indistinct from the confusion about sex itself.

In the Sixties and Seventies, everyone thought they had invented sex and, because of that, had to be doing it and be seen to be doing it all the time. (And it's the ones who came of age then who are now sliding, somehow, into a strangely celebrated celibacy.) In the Eighties, we were luckier: we had nothing to prove to society and so we could get on with our private lives in private. Now, in the Nineties, sex has become an issue again. On the one hand there's AIDS, on the other the anxious sense that every action is open to scrutiny. Added to which, a generation of women has been told that to be sexually provocative is to be strong, but to be sexually active is to be weak, to be potentially a victim. The argument doesn't tally — that's just the problem.

But there is so much pressure on people to be rapaciously sexual now, that those who are beginning their adult life are frightened off before they start. A 21-year-old told me that a defensive and not entirely desired celibacy was the norm for most of her student friends. Social life is lived through endless drinks and clubbing with the girls. Quite frankly, the super-saturation of sex that swamps society appears to have led to as much repression as the buttoned-upness that constrained it earlier.

MEDIA

• Maggie Brown on television's obsession with the supernatural

Section 2, page 31

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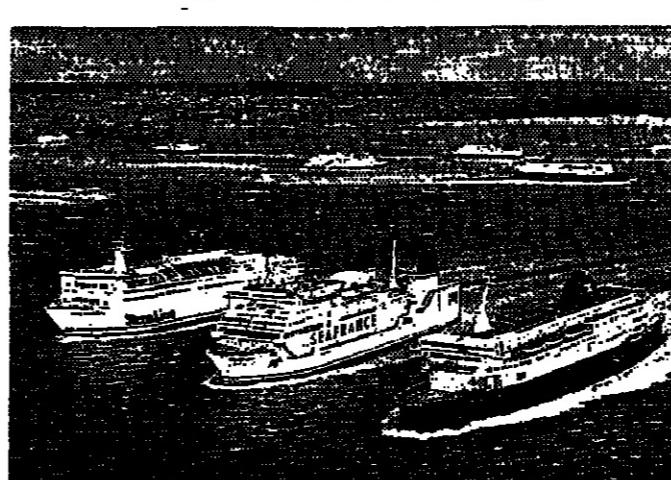
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Alan Coren



■ At the going rate for odd-jobbing, I could afford to turn professional

After my recent sour lubrications with my recent sour lubrications, I am truly delighted this morning, to put on record my indebtedness to Legal & General. Without them, I should have had no idea of my family's indebtedness to me. My family owes me £104 for last week alone.

I have been able to arrive at this precise figure thanks to the precise figures totted up in L&G's recent report, *Value of a Mum*, in which the unpaid work done by housewives — childminding, cleaning, shopping, cooking, and so on — was valued at £313 per week. Peanuts. For, when I laid L&G's pecuniary template over my own domestic services, I discovered myself to be worth very nearly seven women. Let us, therefore, open the even more recent report, *Value of a Dad*.

Last Monday, a cadet member of the family, on a flying visit to mix itself a gin and tonic, shut the outer freezer door without shutting the inner flap over the ice-compartment. This caused it to snap off.

When I rang Bosch, Bosch said it would come from Hayes and fix it, for £83.99. The £3.99 was for the flap. Flap-fixers were £80 an hour. I left for Hayes. Hayes is not easy to find. It takes £160 to find Hayes. After you have found Hayes, it takes another £80 to find Bosch and give them £3.99 for a flap which you have to take back to Cricklewood in order to find out that it is for a different model, and will have to be replaced at Hayes, which, fortunately, is now only 50 away because you are getting used to finding it. By Monday night, the flap was back on, for only £83.99. Monday night, however,

was not yet over, because Monday night was when we wanted to watch a film I had taped the night before, but when I set the VCR in motion, the VCR made a funny little rattle, so we went to bed.

Up comes on Tuesday to ring Granada TV's service department, to learn that they could not come out before Wednesday, but since I am a dab hand at funny little ruffles — only last week, rather than throw away £40 per hour of a trained motor-mechanic's time to sort out my wife's exhaust-pipe, I crawled under her car to secure it with piano wire in hardly more than £100, so that it could fall off the next day and enable her to enjoy the diverting badinage of a trained motor-mechanic who swore he thought a low-flying Tornado was driving into his garage — I soon set about dismantling the VCR myself, at about £200, to find out why it was rattling. We were thus able to watch the film on Friday, because that was the earliest Granada could come out, after I rang them on Wednesday.

I don't know how I found time to ring them on Wednesday, mind, given the fact that the mower had to have its annual strip-down and clean for the winter, for which you could be charged £50 by a professional taking an hour to do it, say £300 by an amateur, to include £75 combing the shrubbery for one of those itchy carburettor springs that fly out as soon as you even look at them and cost £100.69 from Qualcast dealers an hour's drive from Cricklewood. But Thursday was a lot better, Thursday went very smoothly. I could have sent in a bill for £650 on Thursday night, you would not believe what a plumber would charge just for clearing out a garage to find his rods so that he could ream a drain which would turn out to be not responsible for causing blockage to a waste-disposal which, even when removed with a King Dick wrench expressly bought for the purpose from a distant builder's merchant which shuts for lunch, refused either to give up its secrets or go back on again without leaking through the rubber sealing-ring which, for some unfathomable reason, is designed to shred if inadvertently overtightened with a King Dick wrench.

I'd rather not tell you about Friday, which would of course be pay-day if anybody was paying anything, except to say that, according to *Value of a Dad*, my notional brown envelope deserved to contain a further £370: you know what a glazier would charge to repair a garage window that has had a plumber's rod through it, especially when the first pane of glass he brings back from the cutter turns out to be 4mm wider than the frame, and the second one 4mm longer. I tell you, a man's work is never done. Never paid for, either.



"AND DO LEAD ME INTO TEMPTATION..."

Devil take the rejects

Schools need to cater for all — which means they must remain comprehensive

All books about schools are about class. All books about the curriculum are about the good old days. Just below the surface, we yearn for the status and certainty of the past. We can wax radical about industry, pollution or the fate of the Kurds. We can tear down and rebuild communities. But around our offspring we build forts, ramparts and drawbridges, to keep out the harlot Progress and the forces of social decline and moral decay. For our children we want it like it was for us. We want a better yesterday.

This week three more books are added to the groaning shelf. All respond to 15 years of anarchy in state education with depressing diagnoses and reactionary prescriptions. It is clear that progress in British education is dead, damned and gone to hell. Tom Brown is back at school and Smike is in the gutter with his ilk. Arnold of Rugby rules the roost.

George Walden's *We Should Know Better* proposes to solve the "education crisis" with a return to selective secondary schools under the guise of reopening the direct grant list. He wants private schools to take government money to admit bright pupils from the state sector. He says that this would unite society.

What these books show is that while we

sink schools would be rich, albeit at a huge price to the Treasury. Melanie Phillips, in *All Must Have Prizes*, shows some concern for the rejects. She comes at the problem from a different angle. Her Britain is in the grip of a Black Death of corruption and immorality (a common belief among those with teenage children). She puts this down to a lethal cocktail of Thatcherite materialism and progressive education. Maths and grammar are disappearing down the plughole along with family cohesion and childhood innocence. "The Tory obsession with the values of the balance sheet has joined forces with the cultural relativism of the Left to destroy the building blocks of the culture," she writes. Liberalism has no answer. We must go back to "rediscover our common humanity" in the old authoritarianism.

What these books show is that while we know what armies and hospitals are for, we do not know what schools are for. When Kenneth Baker introduced his great reform Act ten years ago, he pretended to offer parents what they wanted, schools what they wanted and industry what it wanted. The result was a mess. Parents would choose schools (open enrolment), but schools would also choose parents (selection). The Government cited manpower planning and business needs as guides to the curriculum, yet imposed a national curriculum skewed to traditional grammar subjects. It wanted diverse types of school but offered academic league tables that mocked diversity.

Then this year John Major said he was against "a return to 11-plus selection". Set wanted "a grammar school in every town". Nothing added up. Not since Balalaika has a profession been given a more confused set of battle orders. Small wonder teachers spend half their time up the wrong valley, enduring withering fire from their critics.

English secondary schools were traditionally divided into three categories,

for the working, middle and upper-middle classes. The most determined attempt to bridge the gap was academic selection for some (very few) working-class children to grammar schools under the 1944 Act. This bred such resentment among the rejected in the secondary moderns that the system collapsed in the 1960s. The subsequent reorganisation of secondary schools into local comprehensives was the one effort ever made to break down this class system, at least within the state-financed sector.

We need to remember yet again that this reorganisation was popular — so much so that Margaret Thatcher, as Education Secretary, never thought to turn the clock back. Still today, over most of the country outside big cities and certainly outside London, the comprehensive structure has proved robust. Despite vastly increased disposable income, the number of parents opting for private education (compared, for instance, to opting for private health or private pensions) has risen only from 5 per cent to 7 per cent since 1965. School referendums on selection have shown — and Skidelsky accepts — that there is no great call for a return to the 11-plus segregation of the 1944 Act. It is a mystery why Walden should want to revive the tensions, jealousies and deteriorating standards in the reject schools to denigrate pupils who even today are doing well.

Skidelsky is a free-marketeer, a breed of knight errant now increasingly short of worthwhile jousts. At least he is clear in treating education as a consumer good which should merely respond to parental demand. But he does not explain why the State need subsidise this form of consumption, for the answer must surely determine the allocation of subsidy. He implies that it is the nation's need for well-trained workforce. But on that basis, 20 years of relatively progressive curriculums in British and American comprehensive schools would

be judged a success — for all the present effort to denigrate them.

None of these books hazards a clear objective for the education service. They wander between national competitiveness, a pupil's ability to perform internal tests, and vague assertions of "what parents want". American comprehensive secondary education sets great store by seeking community cohesion through local schools. It sees external benefits in children being together for as long as makes educational sense in a common institution close to family and neighbourhood. No British educationist seems to care about this. American comprehensives have been sneered at by British traditionalists, but they have done no harm to American society, the family or the economy. For all the proclaimed failings of America's progressive teaching, its labour force remains vital and adaptable.

British comprehensives were sabotaged, as Phillips graphically illustrates, not by their non-selective transfer at 11 but by a coincidental collapse of professional discipline on the part of teachers. This was a historic tragedy. Discipline is now being restored, hamfistedly, by central government diktat. But to use this as justification for a return to a divisive secondary system, as advocated by Walden and Skidelsky, would be absurd. It would be the educational equivalent of returning to the gold standard.

The test of an education service must be an ability to add value to what parents can do on their own: to help to produce economically active and honest citizens, able to lead stimulating and fulfilled lives in a community. If the service, and its critics, cannot test performance against these objectives, that is sad. But we cannot regard "key stage three" or GCSE or A-level passes as proxies. Such tests measure little more than a faculty for passing them. Some teachers may claim they predict a facility in the "exam of life". If so they should find some means to prove it.

The evidence of these books is that British state secondary schools have given up on innovation, research or experiment and are in professional retreat. Over the past two decades, university entry has soared and the Government declares that British economic performance is supreme in Europe. Yet the schools that fuel this great engine have lost all confidence. Small wonder that parents too are in retreat and Smike is quaking in his gutter.

Slow to chide their ex-bishop
Scots are sorry for Roddy Wright, says Magnus Linklater

Roderick Wright, Roman Catholic Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, was the kind of priest any church would be proud of — as a spiritual guide, a source of energy, and a human being. He was unstuffy, charming, excellent company. Yesterday, he was remembered by his congregation at St Columba's in Oban as a good listener and a splendid communicator, whose sermons were rich in wisdom and good sense. That he has been undone by the very warmth and gregariousness which were among his most attractive qualities has evoked sympathy rather than condemnation. "He was a good man," was one typical comment, "but he was human like the rest of us . . ."

Like the rest of us . . . there's the rub. The very point of celibacy is that it should place a priest at one remove from his flock, enabling him to concentrate on the work of God, free of the distractions to which the rest of us are prone. Thus he can be a rock of support to those in need of help, while remaining aloof from emotional entanglements. "For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more," wrote St Paul to the Corinthians. For some 900 years or more (most people date the strict rules on single priests to the 11th century) the Roman Catholic Church has placed celibacy on a high moral pedestal for precisely these reasons.

That is the theory, and that, despite the stumbling of Bishop Wright, will remain, for the time being at least, the Vatican's firm rule. Not the least of its reasons will be financial: the notion of the single priest goes hand in hand with a frugality which would appeal even the underpaid vicars of the Anglican Church. If Rome were to change its stance and allow its clergy to marry, the financial burden of supporting wives and families might drive it to bankruptcy.

But the virtues of celibacy are under assault in this age of carnal knowledge. The bishop is only the latest in a long list of the fragile and susceptible within the Catholic Church who have found the temptations of the flesh hard to resist, and equally hard to ignore. Bombardeed from every side with what Cardinal Basil Hume calls society's "endless obsession" with sex, the vulnerable priest can begin to feel that it is he rather than the libertine who is the freak. As Cardinal Hume points out, the emphasis on sexual achievement raises false expectations of what is required for human happiness, and the loneliness to which so many single priests are exposed only widens the gulf between them and the outside world.

Just as tempting perhaps for the middle-aged priest is the lure of a comforting relationship. In the same speech, last weekend, Cardinal Hume paid tribute to "the health of the family" and added: "The nurturing of children is the most primitive and profound human endeavour." It is not surprising that so many servants of his Church who embark on a celibate priesthood with the best of intentions find themselves unable to resist the companionship. There is also the excitement of a forbidden liaison. Straw polls in Argyll yesterday suggested a remarkable absence of condemnation of Bishop Wright's behaviour. That may perhaps stem from a longstanding Scottish tradition of tolerance which goes back to the 18th-century Enlightenment and beyond, and which contrasts strongly with the grim image most people have of a straitlaced and bigoted Kirk. It may also, however, reflect an instinctive understanding of human frailty.

But it would be wrong to conclude that one bishop's fall from grace will undermine the Church's stance on celibacy. Cardinal Thomas Winning, head of the Catholic Church in Scotland and sometimes spoken of as a future candidate for the papacy, is a staunch traditionalist, unbending on birth control, celibacy and divorce. He has already made it clear that, sympathetic as he is towards "Bishop Roddy", there will be no compromise on principle. "If we don't set high ideals and standards, then we are not much of a Church," he said.

And of course there is much to be said for maintaining standards. In an age of crumbling ideals, bending the rules on celibacy might only be the first step in a retreat from the certainties which have always been the Catholic Church's great strength. For every stumbling bishop there are a thousand priests serving their congregations with uncomplaining self-denial, obedient to Paul's precept that "they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel".

Perhaps, however, there is another approach. The Church is losing thousands of potential young priests who find they cannot contemplate the unmarried life and who turn elsewhere rather than fall at the first hurdle. There may be an argument for creating a special order of married priests, rather like those of the Greek Church, a minority one, perhaps operating at a junior level, but nevertheless sanctioned by the Vatican. This would maintain the notion of discipline, so important to Catholics, while at the same time recognising the realities of modern life.

This may not be heresy. It was, after all, St Paul himself who wrote in his epistle to Timothy that a bishop should be "blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach". It is a precept that might well have kept Bishop Roddy within the Church.

Telling all

THE COUNTRY is against you. Your Cabinet is in revolt; in whom can a Prime Minister confide? According to Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, there is no better cure for a fevered mind than a gossip with the Queen — the Marie Troops to our political leaders.

A BBC documentary to be screened on Sunday contains interviews with five former Prime Ministers, who talk of the minutiae of the job. Callaghan waxes enthusiastically about his weekly audiences with Her Majesty.

"One could discuss openly with the Queen matters that one would not even discuss with one's colleagues," he tells Michael Cockerell in his programme *How to be a Prime Minister*. "Personal matters, relations with other Cabinet colleagues to others . . . I'm not talking about matters of great policy now. I'm talking about the personal side of the prime ministership."

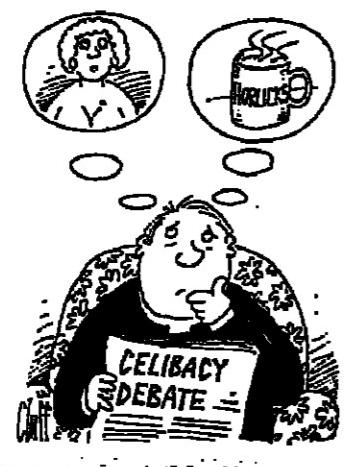
"Well, the Queen was always very interested in that kind of relationship, and one could unburden oneself to her and I don't think I'm betraying confidences when I say I think that there were occasions when she could talk to me about her personal issues, and

probably to other Prime Ministers too, in a much more easy way than perhaps she could talk to with others."

The programme also reveals

Harold Wilson's desperate endeavour to assassinate Idi Amin, a plan thwarted by the Foreign Office, which eventually persuaded him that the country could not muster anybody sufficiently skilled for the job.

• The surprise celebrity at Peter Stringfellow's party on Monday



No arguing LISTENERS to Monday morning's *Today* programme may have been surprised to hear Sir James

night in his West End nightclub to launch his autobiography was Terry Major-Ball, the Prime Minister's brother. Terry claimed to be new to the nightclub world, and unused to naked girls frolicking on a stage. "Not really my scene," he said — but surprisingly, he didn't leave until 4am.

To the wall

ADDING a little practical experience to his beat, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, recently joined coppers on night patrol in Huddersfield. A quiet evening really, until the assembled band stumbled across a wall covered in graffiti. "Howard out" they read, and "Howard must go". The Home Secretary reportedly dismissed the criticism as just a minor irritant. Nevertheless, he was relieved when Keith Helliwell, the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, gripped him reassuringly by the arm: "They don't mean you, they mean Howard Wilkinson, manager of the Leeds football team." Wilkinson has since lost his job.

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Goldsmith discussing his Referendum Party in the graveyard segment of the show after 8.30. Perversely, this is part of Sir James's strategy: insiders say that he insists on appearing last on news programmes. By doing so, he has been advised, he can prevent anyone responding to his tirades. Elsewhere in the bunker, they have settled on a theme tune for the party: the music from the film *The Mission*. This is a grandiose piece, redolent of crashing waterfalls, soaring condors, downrushing natives, martyrdom and the triumph of the human spirit. Not that Sir James and his groupies are the sorts to over-egg their own importance.

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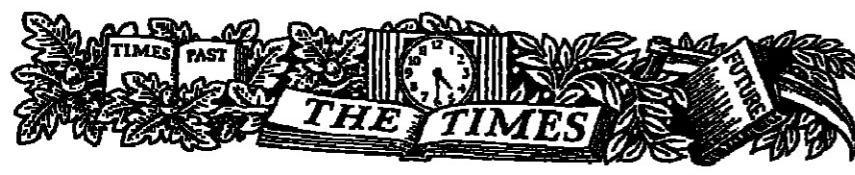
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THE PURPOSE OF PRIESTS

Celibacy may be reviewed but not easily abandoned

To those outside the frontiers of its faith the practice of celibacy among the Roman Catholic priesthood has long been a matter of comment — by no means all of it flattering. Celibacy is not a law of God but a law of the Church, formalised from the Second Lateran Council of 1139. It could equally be ended by a future Pope or General Council and, on any occasion when the behaviour of an individual reveals its imperfections, the whole institution is brought into question.

It is not difficult to see why such a move might be contemplated following the current case of the Right Rev Roderick Wright, departed Bishop of Argyll and the Isles. Although there is minimal pressure for change from Catholic laity, the church hierarchy has to confront the alleged consequences of the rule. Recruitment to the priesthood has been a cause of concern for some decades. Cardinal Hume has acknowledged that many excellent people find themselves disbarred from their calling by the demands of chastity. Possibly 2,000 priests in Britain alone may have left their parishes to enter personal relationships.

That enforced loss appears especially unnecessary now that Rome has accepted the conversions of many hundreds of married Anglicans and permitted them to preach after reconstitution. Although the extent of disobedience may well be exaggerated, the rule is flouted in large sections of the developing world. If celibacy were responsible for the gradual destruction of the Church in Europe while exposing it to charges of hypocrisy elsewhere, then its continuation could not be justified.

That case, however, is far from proven. The Church of England too, despite the option of marriage for its clergy, has suffered a fall in the numbers entering its ranks. Organised religion has been challenged of late by a crisis of faith and culture of self-satisfying materialism throughout the Western world. Eliminating celibacy alone

is unlikely to combat such forces. Indeed it could be viewed as a capitulation to them. Furthermore, while the vow of perfect chastity has only been mandatory since the 12th century, it has served as an ideal since the very founding of the Church, encouraged by the life of Christ Himself, certain interpretations of St Matthew's Gospel, and recognised from the decretal of Pope Siricius in AD 385. This is not some strange bylaw adopted in a mad medieval moment but one integral to the history and development of Catholicism.

It has also become part of what is distinctive about the Church. Dedication to celibacy, along with the allied embrace of poverty, have created a priesthood which leads an essentially monastic lifestyle in the outside world. That distance, and the extraordinary discipline it demands, is fundamental to the standing of the clergy in the eyes of most Catholics. This quality thus grants a special spiritual status to its holders in the eyes of their congregations. If priests acquired families, many of the present arrangements for their funding would become impractical. The Church would be starkly divided between those inside and outside monastic life. The results of that would be uncertain. Were the rules to be relaxed, and if no great numbers of new priests emerged, the loss would be huge.

Circumstances may force this question on to the Catholic agenda. Ultimately Rome might have to follow the Orthodox example, under which priests may marry before ordination but bishops must be celibate. Yet it is not a change that can be lightly embraced. It goes right to the principle of the purpose of priests. Instinctive conservatism is legitimate. The Church of England abruptly abandoned celibacy in 1549 thus legitimising the marriage of Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury. Roman Catholics should not allow the sad affair of Bishop Wright to provoke similarly hasty decisions.

CHURCHILL IN ZURICH

A speech that rippled around the world

Of the great series of speeches in which Winston Churchill set out his thinking on the postwar world, none has been more persistently mined for thoughts it scarcely entertained than his call, 50 years ago tomorrow at the University of Zurich, for a United States of Europe. There is no disputing the central thesis of the Zurich speech. It fits along with the great Fulton "Iron Curtain" speech earlier in 1946, into Churchill's central postwar preoccupations — the imperative of Anglo-American co-operation to deter Soviet expansion; the bonding together of the democracies at the United Nations and other institutions, to avert another war; and what he was to call at Zurich, citing Gladstone, a "blessed act of oblivion" in Europe to cover "the injuries of the past".

Europeans, he said at Zurich, must "recreate the European fabric, or as much of it as we can, and provide with a structure under which it can dwell in peace". To that end he insisted — sensationally, in the raw mood of the times — that "the first step in the recreation of the European family must be a partnership between France and Germany". As we look back over 50 years, these proposals read as the signposts to Western Europe's subsequent recovery. The pity is that in British politics, an audacious and visionary speech has been crawled over ever since for one reason alone: the anxiety of those on both sides of the arguments over Europe to claim Churchill for their cause.

Where Churchill actually stood is reasonably clear from his conclusion. He saw a United States of Europe as a defence for continental democracies weakened by war and threatened by Moscow's hegemonic ambitions. He did not include Britain in that category: indeed, he saw Britain and its Commonwealth, the US and — more in hope than in expectation — "Soviet Russia" as the "friends and sponsors of the new Europe".

REMEMBERED IN GLASS

A Shropshire Lad in Westminster Abbey

No poet is easier to parody than A. E. Housman. "What, still alive at 22 — a clean, upstanding chap like you?" began one noted spoof. His taut, terse verse harking back deceptively to ballads and ditties, his rural persona, and obsessive introspection — all make him a powerful and instantly recognisable voice. It is a century ago that *A Shropshire Lad* was first published, and 60 years ago since his death. Yesterday's unveiling of a memorial window in Westminster Abbey honours his enduring popularity and the influence he has had on generations of poets, writers and politicians.

Housman was a passionate and repressed man, whose emotional frustration found outlet in two great bursts of poetry and in the purist pursuit of classical scholarship. Withdrawing into a melancholic and self-imposed misanthropy, he nevertheless wrote some of the most enduring lines in English, remembered for their gentleness and their loveliness. The Victorians were deceived by the mask of pastoral naivety, and it still comes as a shock to many that this son of a solicitor scarcely ever visited Shropshire, and used the county merely as a metaphor, a mental landscape.

A Shropshire Lad became one of the most widely read books of poetry ever published,

touching a generation with nostalgia that stops just short of maudlin sentimentality, and accompanying thousands of soldiers into war. Few at the time knew the deep loneliness and sorrow from which he drew inspiration, his unrequited infatuation with a fellow undergraduate, Moses Jackson. This passion was to inspire another cycle of verse years later when he heard that Jackson, by then married, was dying.

Housman himself acknowledged the role of emotion in the genesis of poetry, in his celebrated 1933 lecture *The Name and Nature of Poetry*. Housman always insisted that he could no more define poetry than a terrier could define a rat; but he knew it when he saw it. Such views and the verse they engendered were, for a generation, scorned by the Leavis school of English. But the man and his poetry have seen a revival, spurred perhaps by the fascination with this shy recluse who wore his unorthodox emotion on his sleeve; who failed his Oxford Latin finals but went on to become one of the most implacable professors of Classics at London and Cambridge, and who left a masterful five-volume edition of the Roman poet Manilius and a collection of pornography to his university and poems that still speak to the heart.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Accountability of Rimington's MI5

From the Director of Liberty

Sir, I was fascinated to read Stella Rimington's account of her work (articles, September 16, 17). What interested me most was how she dealt with the critics of the way MI5 has operated. She is wrong if she continues to think that the critics of the Security Service are all "conspiracy theorists for whom the service is the tool of a repressive state". Many of us have genuine concerns about the ability of an internal secret police service to ever be sufficiently transparent and accountable to merit a place in a democratic society which is not at war.

I have no idea whether the Security Service was involved in "destabilising governments". I do know that Liberty was subject to unwarranted surveillance by the service because Cathy Massier, one of its ex-employees, revealed this (report, February 22, 1985).

I also know that the information she revealed allowed my colleagues to succeed with their case in the European Commission of Human Rights (report, April 27, 1990), which in turn led to the Government putting the service on a statutory footing and setting up a complaints procedure. Our continued criticism of the service is not based on conspiracy theory but rather on principles of openness, accountability, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Unfortunately the most recent changes in the Security Service Act 1996 do nothing to improve the service's ability to meet these principles and for that reason it was wrong for the service to be given a wider remit allowing it to intervene in areas unrelated to "national security".

During Stella Rimington's time the service did become more open and accountable. I do not think she should be "ostracised and excluded from decent society", but the service needs to go a long way further before it can be accepted as an essential part of a democratic society.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WADHAM,
Director,
Liberty (The National Council
for Civil Liberties),
21 Tabard Street, SE1.
September 17.

Excellence in the NHS

From Mr A. E. P. Cameron

Sir, I believe Professor Turner Warwick (letter, September 11) is quite wrong to make special pleading for the funding of tertiary NHS specialist centres.

One of the unsung achievements of the NHS over the last 40 years has been the diffusion of expertise and resources into the district general hospitals. The historic role of the teaching hospitals has therefore declined.

Much good research now emerges from the district hospitals: indeed some of the most spectacular advances in recent years, such as in vitro fertilisation, have come from places well away from "centres of excellence".

Audrey shows that the clinical experience provided to trainees and medical students is much greater in district hospitals: finally the care the patients receive is more likely to be consultant-based.

One example will suffice: I was recently asked to take over the care of a patient from Suffolk who was operated on in London 17 years ago. Since the operation he has traipsed up to his teaching hospital every six months to be seen by a succession of harassed junior doctors, none of whom had the courage or insight to discharge him from this unnecessary follow-up.

NHS resources are indeed limited; they should therefore be concentrated where they have been shown to be most effective — at the district general hospital level.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CAMERON
(Consultant surgeon),
The Ipswich Hospital,
Heath Road,
Ipswich, Suffolk.
September 12.

Cancer treatment

From Dr Mike Fried

Sir, In response to Dr Rosalki's letter of September 10, I would like to make it clear that I do not dismiss the potential of gene therapy in the treatment of cancer by the replacement of the p53 gene. My comments on this matter in your report of August 29, "Bad gene corrected in cancer milestone", may have been open to misunderstanding.

I mentioned that all the patients in the study died because I wanted to emphasise that, although this work was indeed promising, it should not be viewed as a "cure" for cancer, and I explained that more research was now needed to establish ways in which additional therapies could assist the introduction of the p53 gene into every tumour cell. Unfortunately these comments did not come across in all editions of your report.

Of course gene therapy is a new approach to treating cancer and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund itself has gene therapy trials in progress.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE FRIED
Imperial Cancer Research Fund,
PO Box 123,
Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.

September 12.

Crisis of morale in the priesthood

From the Reverend Father David W. Barnes

Sir, The question of permanent celibacy for Roman Catholic priests is once again being raised because of the recent events surrounding the Roman Catholic Bishop of Argyll and the Isles (reports, September 16, 17).

The underlying and more important question, however, is not so much whether we should have a married RC clergy, but rather how far anyone, whomsoever, can make a permanent commitment to their life — whether it be in marriage, the priesthood or religious life.

If one cannot make a reliable and permanent life commitment then every decision is negotiable and none is permanent. Fidelity disappears. Hence the situation would arise (and is arising) when no one can rely on anyone absolutely.

As long as we see what has happened to Bishop Wright as an exception, which can occur because of human weakness (to which we are all subject), then we shall keep it in a proper perspective. But if we were to exalt it as to what should be the norm for RC clergy, or still more to see it as a further example that no decision can be for life, then we would miss the point of the dignity and nobility of human nature expressed in and fostered by fidelity to a permanent life-long commitment.

Human nature would thus be diminished, not enhanced.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BARNES
(Parish priest,
St Mary Moorfields),
St Mary's Rectory,
45 Eldon Street, EC2.

September 17.

From the Reverend Father Brian T. Godden

Sir, The question of the morale of the Catholic clergy is raised by your report (September 5) on the National Conference of Priests and by the conference chairman in his letter (September 11). The events of the last few days have brought the problem under the spotlight again.

Our morale is bound to be affected because we are not recruiting new priests in sufficient numbers and some of our colleagues are leaving the ranks, but more especially because Rome and the bishops do not seem to be doing anything about it.

In my diocese there is scarcely a deanery which has not got a parish without a resident priest. Most parishes have been trimmed of their curates. The return of missionaries from abroad has helped to mask the crisis which is looming.

The prospect of parishes without Sunday Mass, no one to baptise the children, lay people having to take

Runcie biography: a fitting tribute

From Mr Peter Bottomley, MP for Ethel (Conservative)

Sir, I regard criticism of *The Times* for publishing extracts, or of the author and Lord Runcie for creating the biography of the former Archbishop, as wrong (letters, September 10, 11, 12).

In his work and in the conversations recorded in Mr Carpenter's biography, Robert Runcie showed how to build relationships outside the Church, to welcome people into the Christian faith, to introduce people to the life of the Church, and to bring new Christians towards maturity.

The way of life of a man who becomes Archbishop is worth writing and reading. I believe it will encourage many in and around the Church of England in faith, in life and in works.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BOTTOMLEY,
House of Commons.
September 14.

From Rabbi Professor Dan Cohn-Sherbok

Sir, The Church of England has cause for rejoicing. In his reminiscences, Lord Runcie has shown the Prince of Wales to be a man deeply interested in spiritual matters.

Such theological concern has not

funerals, churches locked and falling into decay is gloomy indeed.

We clergy are mostly growing old, together, and the likelihood of having to look after two parishes is not cheerful for one like myself, who is in his seventies.

The old clerical style of the Catholic Church has outgrown its usefulness, but the immediate prospect is somewhat frightening.

Some of the burning issues, such as the ordination of married men and of women, are not even supposed to be discussed.

There is an obvious need for another General Council of the Church, this time to be held away from the influence of the Roman Curia, to finish off the work of the Second Vatican Council.

Yours truly,

B. T. GODDEN

(Parish priest,
Our Lady Immaculate
and St Ethelbert's),
Wellington Street, Slough, Berkshire.
September 17.

From the Reverend Dr Alan C. Clifford

Sir, As a happily married pastor of the Norwich Reformed Church I take a compassionate view of the victims of compulsory priestly celibacy.

Since the Apostle Peter was a married man (Luke iv, 38) and the Apostle Paul assumed the marital status of bishops (1 Timothy iii, 2), would it not be helpful for all concerned if the Church of Rome discarded its rule in favour of authentic apostolic precedent?

If they endorsed such teaching by example, Cardinal Hume and his fellow clergy could then expect their timely calls for sexual discipline and family stability to be more effective.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN C. CLIFFORD,

7 Woodside Park,
Attleborough, Norfolk,
September 16.

From the Reverend Father Bryan Storey

Sir, The written law of clerical celibacy appears in an epistle of Pope Siricius (AD 385), rather earlier than the 11th century mentioned in your report ("Pressure grows on Pope to soften celibacy rule", September 16). The implication is that the obligation is not new but one of long standing.

It is not the relaxation of the law that we should be seeking but a rediscovery of the path to deeper prayer and meditation.

Yours truly,

BRYAN STOREY,

Trewarriet, Tintagel, Cornwall.
September 16.

From Mr P. J. Taylor

Sir, You report today that the general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers has attacked "negative parenting".

We parents believe that teachers should be attacked for negative parenting.

Yours faithfully,

P. J. TAYLOR,

16 Monks Road,

Virginia Water, Surrey.

September 16.

Romania's future

From Mr Radu Vladescu

Sir, Mr Gheorghe Dragos, the Romanian Charge d'Affaires (letter, September 12), is right in saying that Mr Nicolae Ratiu, British president of the World Union of Free Romanians, was inaccurate in his letter of September 4 with regard to the exact title of President Iliescu under the executed dictator, Ceausescu.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Duke of Gloucester has become Patron of The Royal Pioneer Corps Association.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, will open New Yatt's Own Home Project, the Old Tip, Bodington Lane, North Leigh, Wimborne, Dorset, at 10.30; as President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend the Rural Carers Event organised by the Carers Centre (North and West Oxfordshire), West Oxfordshire College, Witney, at 11.45; and, as Patron of Sense - The National Deafblind and Rubella Association, will visit Chalford House, Rodington Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, at 1.40. Later, as President of the Patrons of Crime Concern, will attend a reception at the Legal and General Assurance Society, Knock Court, Fitzalan Place, Cardiff, at 6.00.

The Duke of Kent, as President of the Engineering Council, will present the prizes at the Young Engineers for Britain national final at the British Airways engineering maintenance base at Heathrow Airport at 10.00.

Birthdays today

Lord Atcher, 76; Mr Ray Alan, ventriloquist, 66; Mr Anthony Asquith, Headmaster, Epsom College, 56; Mr Jack Cardiff, film director and cameraman, 82; Mr Niall Crowley, former chairman, Allied Irish Banks, 70; Miss Siobhan Davies, choreographer, 46; Viscount Eccles, CH, QC, 92; Mr Robin Fleming, chairman, Robert Fleming Holdings, 64; Sir Thomas Hetherington, QC, former Director of Public Prosecutions, 70; Sir Curtis Keeble, diplomat, 74; Dr Marjorie Mowllan, MP, 47; Mr Dere Pringle, cricketer, 38; Peter Shilton, footballer, 47; Mr Geoffrey V. Smith, former director, London Tourist Board, 80; Mr J.M. Stoddart, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield Hallam University, 58; Professor Dorothy Wedderburn, former Principal, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, 71.

Receptions

Wind, Sand & Stars Wind, Sand & Stars held a reception last night at the Royal Geographical Society to celebrate five years of desert and mountain journeys in the Sinai.

British Safety Council

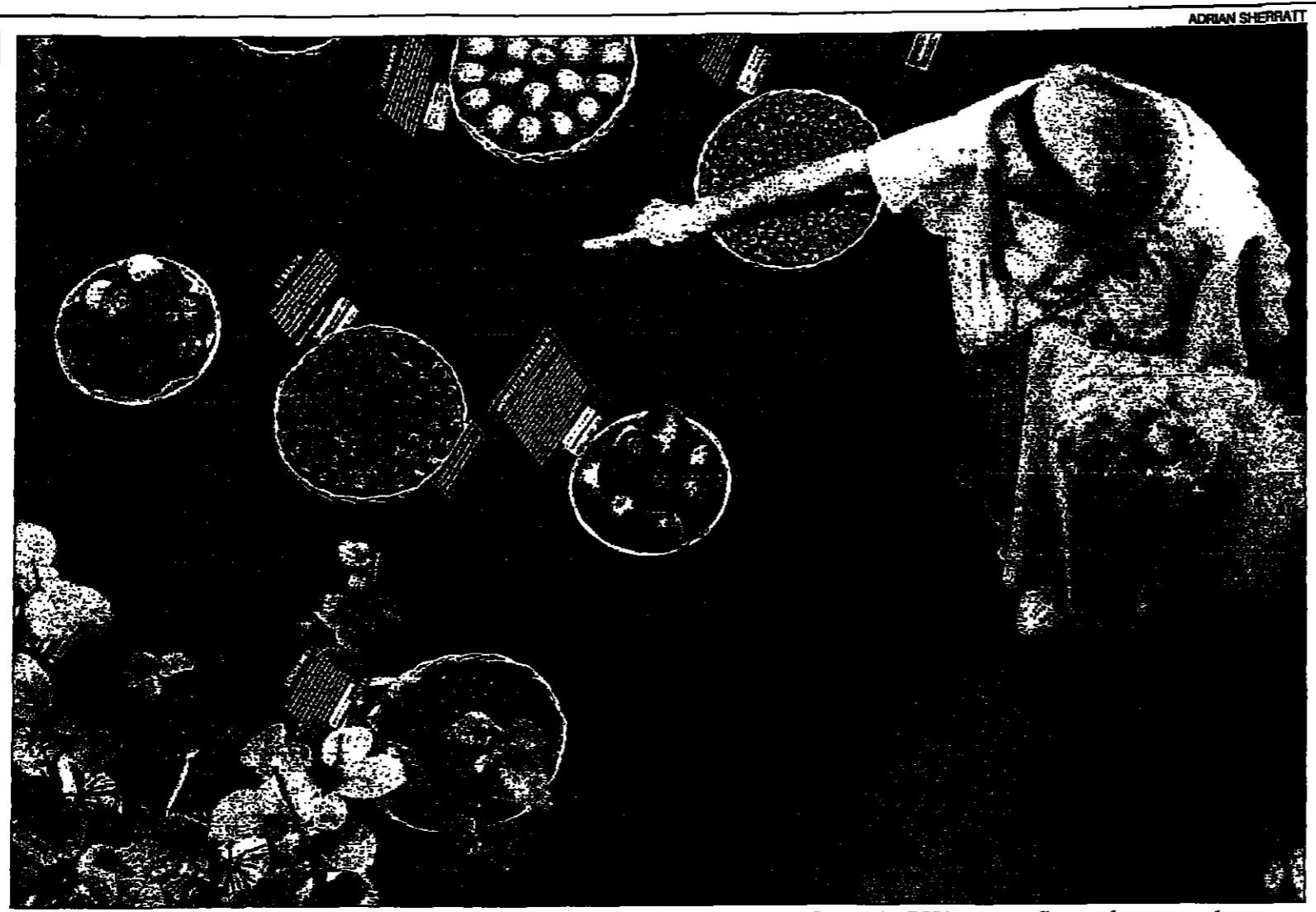
Mr Tim Hooper, of the British Safety Council's Board of Governors, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Admiralty Hall for the Management and Safety Management awards. Mr Jim Brett, deputy director general, was among those present.

Service dinner

HMS Victory
Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, was the host at a dinner held onboard his flag ship *HMS Victory* at Portsmouth last night. The Bishop of Winchester and the Lord Mayor of London were among the guests.

Dinner

World Customs Organisation
Mr Anthony Newton, Lord President of the Council, was the guest of honour and speaker at a dinner given by Her Majesty's Customs and Excise last night in Brighton to mark the close of the World Customs Organisation's Conference of Heads of Customs Investigations Services. Mr Richard Kellaway, Customs Chief Investigations Officer, was the host.



A visitor inspects a display of fruits, including strawberries, blackberries and apples, at the RHS autumn flower show yesterday

An autumn flower show of mellow fruitfulness

By ALAN TOOGOOD
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE very title great autumn flower show can create a false impression for some people, as this major event is not a blaze of foliage and berry colour (that is a feature of the October show) but a festival of autumn-flowering plants and bulbs.

Dahlias dominate at this Royal Horticultural Society show, which opened yesterday, with the gold-medal display from Aylett Nurseries, of London Colney, Hertfordshire, forming the centrepiece in the New Horticultural Hall. As usual the scores of cultivars are grouped according to colour and there is a sprinkling of promising new ones, including "Hillcrest Albino" (white medium semi-cactus), "Bracken Ballerina" (shell-pink small waterlily type), and "Finchcocks" (small waterlily in blends of orange).

Chrysanthemums epitomise autumn and the display of hardy Korean types from Home Meadows Nursery, of Martlesham, Suffolk, is creating an eye-catching display. They form part of the national collection of Koreans which is held by the nursery and there are some distinctive cultivars among them, such as "Aline" with peach-coloured spoon-petaled flowers.

Autumn-flowering gentians are making an appearance at this show. Edrom Nurseries, of Coldingham, Borders, are showing a collection that they have raised from seed, which creates quite a variation in colour, but the tub of *Gentiana "Multiflora"* takes some beating with its multi-headed dark blue flowers, an easy one to grow given lime-free soil.

Autumn is also the season for hydrangeas, and a collection of blue-flowered cultivars has been staged by Burncoose Nurseries, of Redruth, Cornwall, who have gained a gold medal. One of the darkest blue cultivars in this display is "Kluis Superbe".

Colchicums, the favourite bulbs of autumn, are rather late this year and few are to be seen at this show, although some exhibitors have managed a few, including Broadleigh Gardens, of Bishops Hull, Somerset. They have included the rare deep lilac *Colchicum panicum*, a much underrated plant. Broadleigh are building up a collection of agapanthus or African lilies and have included a few late-flowering cultivars on their stand. Particularly eye-catching are "Blue Moon" with pale blue flowers, and the dark blue "Loch Hope". Agapanthus is not yet available from this nursery as stocks are being built up.

Eucomis, the rather tender pineapple flowers, are featured by Avon

Bulbs, of Mid Lambrook, Somerset, including their own seed-raised *Eucomis comosa* which has resulted in some exciting colours, including pink flowers on red stems. Also eye-catching is *E. autumnalis* with spikes of white flowers and the greenish white *E. bicolor alba*.

Autumn-flowering ornamental onions or alliums are being featured by Rupert Bowby, of Gatton, Surrey, including the rarely offered *Allium virguncula*, a native of Japan. It is a miniature species ideal for rock gardens and produces soft pink flowers amid fine grassy foliage.

Jeckes' Herb Farm, of Alveston, Bristol, is featuring a Victorian favourite, *Calathea amaranthoides* (*Huernia elegans*), the incense plant, which was used as a houseplant to create a fragrant atmosphere. It is a tender biennial with huge but dainty panicles of flowers which have dusky pink bracts.

Among the more unusual exhibits is a collection of plants used in pharmaceutical medicine, staged by the Chelsea Physic Garden, of London, linking with the original role of this garden. The Madagascan periwinkle, *Catharanthus roseus*, is included. This is a common pot plant, but also field-grown as the principal anti-leukaemia drug. Product packaging is displayed next to the plants from which the drugs are derived, so visitors can see that many products are obtained from natural sources. The exhibit has been awarded a gold medal.

Columnar fruit trees known as minarettes are being shown by fruit specialist Ken Muir, of Weeley Heath, Essex, who has been awarded a gold medal. The little trees, laden with ripe fruit, are well-known cultivars of apples and pears. Minarettes crop on short spurs on a single upright stem and as they do not produce conventional branches they are ideal where space is limited and for growing in patio tubs.

Other gold medallists are the African Violet Centre, of Terrington St Clement, Norfolk (*saintpaulias*); Buddhist Bonsai, of Hockley, Essex (bonsai); Fir Tree Pelargonium Nursery, of Stokesley, North Yorkshire (*pelargoniums*); Heather and Brian Hiley, of Wallington, Surrey (tender and unusual perennials and grasses); Philip Tivey & Sons, of Syston, Leicestershire (dahlias); Toobees Exotics, of Woking, Surrey (succulent plants); and Westdale Nurseries, of Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire (butterflys).

The show, in the Horticultural Halls, Vincent Square and Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

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Anniversaries

BIRTHS

DEATHS

DEATHS

DEATHS

DEATHS

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

TICKETS FOR SALE

FOR SALE

DEATHS

DEATHS

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OBITUARIES

McGEORGE BUNDY

McGeorge Bundy.
National Security Adviser
to Presidents Kennedy
and Johnson, died in
Boston on September 16
aged 77. He was born in
the same city on March
30, 1919.

To have helped to avert what might well have turned into a third world war was, perhaps, McGeorge Bundy's greatest achievement. On the afternoon of October 15, 1962, while serving as President Kennedy's special assistant for national security affairs, Bundy was the first to be informed of the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba. Another man might have rushed to the Oval Office with the news; Bundy did not.

Instead, he delayed telling the President until the next morning, using the intervening time to allow the intelligence agencies to assemble the facts, and to give Kennedy time to rest before dealing with a potential nuclear confrontation.

It was a typical Bundy gambit, keeping the process of decision-making open until all possible policy ramifications had been explored. On October 17, at a meeting of an expert committee set up to advise Kennedy on the Cuban crisis, Bundy argued successfully against an air strike against the missile sites and in favour of a diplomatic approach. And it was by diplomacy, with the help of a naval blockade of the island, that the crisis was eventually resolved.

Once described by the late Judge Learned Hand — a man not given to hyperbole — as "the brightest man in America", McGeorge Bundy was born into a family whose antecedents included a Revolutionary War general, a poet and a former president of Harvard.



Seen in retrospect, his progress to the White House staff appeared almost inevitable. His father had worked in the State Department under Henry L Stimson. President Hoover's Secretary of State, Stimson, who served in the Administrations of five Presidents, exerted a considerable influence on the younger Bundy, instilling in him a consciousness of his WASP status and the importance of disinterested public service.

A brilliant scholar, Bundy graduated first in his class from Groton School and from Yale, where he became a junior fellow in 1941. He then — despite poor eyesight (he resourcefully memorised the

letters on a standard eye-test sheet) — volunteered for the Army, starting off as an enlisted man and ending up as a captain in Intelligence.

He served on the staff planning the invasions of Sicily and France, working on both occasions in close cooperation with the British (David Astor became a friend at this time). He was released from the military in 1946 and his first postwar job lay in helping Stimson — who had been President Roosevelt's wartime Secretary for the Army — to research and write his autobiography. In April 1948 he went to Washington to work for the agency responsible for implementing the Marshall Plan for restoring the European economies.

As a lecturer in government at Harvard, beginning in 1949, Bundy proved an impressive teacher. He also showed a remarkable ability to handle the university's complicated bureaucracy and its independent-minded faculty. Within four years had been appointed dean of arts and sciences, the second-ranking post (behind only that of university president) at Harvard. In 1954 he was made a full professor, in spite of lacking the normal academic credentials.

Bundy was nominally a Republican, and backed Eisenhower in 1952 and 1956. But he withdrew his support from

the party after its 1960 nomination of Richard Nixon, and worked instead for then Senator John F. Kennedy. Kennedy was so impressed by his intellectual brilliance, organisational ability and philosophical pragmatism, that he offered him a choice of positions in the new Administration. Bundy rejected most of them but accepted that of special assistant for national security affairs.

It proved to be a position of great power. Bundy, in effect, controlled even Cabinet members' access to the President and the agenda of what would be discussed. By the end of 1961 he had virtually achieved Kennedy's aim of sidelining

the State Department, and running foreign affairs through a small semi-secret office. He was now one of the President's "inner circle," a small group of advisers consulted daily, and on whose judgment Kennedy relied in times of crisis.

Unlike many of Kennedy's close associates, Bundy remained at his post after the President's 1963 assassination. Under President Johnson he became an important figure in the formulation of American policy on Vietnam, and his advice was crucial in the decision to increase the bombing raids. His personality, however, did not mix with Johnson's and in December 1965 he resigned from his post to become president of the Ford Foundation. But it was not until 1967 that he joined the chorus of voices protesting against further American involvement in Vietnam. (Part of the explanation here may well have lain in the fact that his elder brother, William P. Bundy, was Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, 1964-69.)

At the Ford Foundation, Bundy's main efforts were concentrated on the elimination of racial discrimination in the United States, and on the improvement of education at all levels. The results were decidedly mixed. After years, in 1979, he began a ten-year stint as a professor of history at New York University, then worked from 1990 to 1993 as chairman of the Carnegie Corporation's committee on reducing the danger of nuclear war. He was scholar-in-residence at the Carnegie Corporation at the time of his death.

McGeorge Bundy wrote a number of books, including *The Strength of Government* (1968) and *Danger and Survival* (1988). He is survived by his wife Mary, and four sons.

LLOYD TURNER

Lloyd Turner, journalist, died of a heart attack on September 12 aged 57. He was born on October 2, 1938.

LLOYD TURNER was the stuff of which Fleet Street legends are made. A full-blooded Australian, with a laugh that came from his boots and, in his early days at least, a capacity for drink enough to fill them.

He arrived in England on the Australian journalists' run from Sydney to Manchester — the normal route in the 1960s — after a career in New South Wales on the *Newcastle Morning Herald*, where he began life as a trainee in 1958, working his way through crime, pictures and features before finishing up as assistant editor.

His first job in Britain was on that nursery of great talent, the *Manchester Evening News*, where he was industrial correspondent, an experience that was to prove useful during his turbulent time as father of the *Daily Express* National Union of Journalists' chapel (office branch).

The years 1969 to 1974 saw enormous upheaval and industrial unrest in Fleet Street, particularly among journalists who had been kept docile by foreign trips, big bylines, liberal expenses and elastic pub hours. By 1969 this was no longer enough and the journalists began to adopt tactics favoured by the print unions. There were some bruising confrontations with management, and Lloyd Turner's aggressive zeal inflicted some sharp wounds on managers who had already begun to lose their way after the death of Lord Beaverbrook.

Turner's time as FOC saw new house agreements, but the tough, aggressive exterior hid a rather unsure, less confident man who could be carried away with his own enthusiasm. This was the time of the hard-drinking Lloyd Turner. Together with his great and enduring friend Peter Tory, he founded the 34 Club, based in a flat at Napier Court, Putney, a drinking establishment in which even Arsenal footballers would have had trouble holding his place.

Scotch was the tipple, and a great deal of it. On one memorable, if hazy, occasion the drink ran out at 4.30am, so Turner knocked up a publican, demanding bottles of Scotch, claiming he had become the proud father of triplets. Such was his charm and conviction that the bleary-eyed, bemused landlord handed the bottles over without a murmur and returned to bed. Such was Fleet Street in the days before flow charts, Perrier water and Diet Coke.

Turner's rise to an editorship was through the traditional route: he was chief sub-editor and night editor of the *Daily Mail*. When *Today* closed he went back to his "boys", but in his 58th year his spirit remained restless. He was about to go back to newspapers, this time on the *Daily Mail*.

Outwardly brash and outspoken, Turner was in fact a self-doubting, self-examining man; not a bad combination for an editor. His furious sense of injustice for those who could not speak for themselves remained to the end, whether it was in his journalism or his charity work for the NSPCC.

His last months were spent advising the National Farmers' Union on "mad cow" disease and the human connection. That must have given that big laugh a chance to work overtime. For as an executive on *Today* he had helped the paper to expose the scandal in the first place, a scandal the NFU refused to admit existed.

He is survived by his third wife.



MAJOR-GENERAL JAMES SCOTT-ELLIOT

Major-General James Scott-Elliott, CB, CBE, DSO and Bar, GOC 51st (Highland) Division, 1952-56, died on September 12 aged 93. He was born on November 6, 1902.

JIM SCOTT-ELLIOT used to say "trust in providence, and follow your star" and he certainly practised what he preached. He was essentially a fighting soldier, who commanded two different battalions in Tunisia and Sicily, and two different brigades in Italy. He survived their many battles unscathed to tell the tale in several monographs, which has left with his family.

The son of Lieutenant-Colonel W. Scott-Elliott, he was educated at Wellington College and Sandhurst, Commissioned into the King's Own Scottish Borderers, he served with the 2nd Battalion in Egypt, Hong Kong, Shanghai and India, becoming its Adjutant in 1929. After a spell in Malta, he was transferred to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, attended the Staff College in 1937-38 and



land with his brigade via Le Havre and Cherbourg.

He did not see active service again until December 1942 when he was commanding the 6th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. They had been converted into the 93rd Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery, for the Tunisian campaign, and their batteries and troops were used as anti-tank "fire brigades" up and down the Allied front throughout the winter battles of 1942-43. Suddenly at no notice,

Scott-Elliott was sent off to take command of the 8th Battalion of the Argylls, whose commanding officer, together with most of his headquarters, had been killed on the notorious Longstop feature, overlooking the approaches to Tunis. The 8th Battalion was back in action under Scott-Elliott's command within 48 hours, and fought on throughout the final battles for Tunis in the 78th Division.

Scott-Elliott continued to command the 8th Argylls

throughout the Sicilian campaign, winning the DSO at Centuripe, to the west of Mount Etna, where in September 1943 his battalion played a major part in persuading Heilmann's 3rd German Parachute Battalion to abandon this key town. He took the 8th Argylls on to Italy where he won his second DSO during the landings at Termoli in October 1943. With very few anti-tank guns and no tank support, his Argylls absorbed and then stopped 16th Panzer Division's counter-attacks. This epic fight cost the battalion 162 casualties.

During Montgomery's crossing of the Sangro in November, Scott-Elliott was again sent off at short notice, this time promoted to command the 17th Indian Brigade in the 8th Indian Division. Its commander had just been sacked for failing to hold the important hill town of Mozzagrogna on the north side of the Sangro. Hardly speaking any Urdu or knowing much about Indian troops, he quickly established a rapport with its officers and retook the town. Three months later he was sent across to the west coast of Italy to command the 167th (London) Brigade of the 56th Division in the bridgehead over the Garigliano River.

But in mid-February 1944, the 56th Division was shipped off in a hurry to Anzio where the Germans were making determined efforts to drive the Allies back into the sea. His brigade took over a position just west of the crucial Flyover Bridge in the centre of the Allied line. The day after their arrival, the German forces made their final, despairing effort to break through. The British Official History remarks: "167th Brigade was offering a very stubborn defence." His forward companies were, indeed, overrun.

THE DEATH OF LOUIS XVIII

Thus, then, the event so often predicted — the death of LOUIS the XVIIIth of France — has at length become a matter of history. That Prince is actually dead. He and NAPOLEON are alike removed from the world, which blazed with their adverse pretensions — that world which was wrung with misery, and drenched with blood, for the sake of fixing one or other of them upon a throne, from which, within ten short years, they have now successfully and irrevocably fallen. Yet, for all the millions of lives that were sacrificed, and of treasures wasted, on account of these two men, how few of the individuals that survive them would pay five pounds or travel a day's journey, to bring either of them back into existence. Such, alas! in the eye of a calm observer, is the vanity of most human agitations. No European Prince of the last two centuries underwent more vicissitudes than Louis XVIII, nor endured them with more exemplary equanimity. It is not too much to say on his behalf, that there was no exhibition of meanness in his adversity, nor of insolence in his prosperous fortune. How much of this seeming superiority to fate may have sprung from a real grandeur of conception or how much from mere constitutional heedlessness — not troubling itself about any but immediate

ON THIS DAY

September 18, 1824

While they were companions of his exile, the other, with a gradual violation of those which were embodied in the Charter, and which accompanied his restoration to the throne. Between these parties, opposite as they were, and irreconcileable, the King had to shape a course of policy which it was not easy to execute, but which, we imagine, was easier to Louis in proportion to his habits of indolence, and, at the same time, to an absence of the acrimonious and vindictive passions. A Prince of a more fiery character would either have quarrelled with his friends when they reproached him with the breach of his promise, or have given way to the Royal appetite for omnipotence, by wholly refusing a charter to his subjects, or by seizing the first provocation afforded him, through treason or treachery, to overturn it. Louis XVIII did neither; his taste was pleasure — not power. He maintained a good-humoured intercourse with the adherents whose most sanguine hopes he had disappointed ... Upon the whole, he may rank in history as a Prince who steerred with more than ordinary temper through circumstances complicated and new; and, as compared with the average of Bourbon Princes, he is entitled to a place in which few of the family can approach him.

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THE TIMES



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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18 1996

Borrowing setback for Clarke

City disappointed as total for August hits £4.5bn

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Government borrowed £4.5 billion in August, a higher total than the City expected, raising concern that the improvement in public finances is worryingly slow.

Borrowing in August took the cumulative public sector borrowing requirement to £13.4 billion in the first five months of the tax year, according to figures from the Office for National Statistics. This compares with £16.7 billion at the same stage last year.

Just one month after the Government enjoyed a bigger repayment of borrowing in July, yesterday's fig-

ures came as a disappointment. Most City analysts believe that borrowing remains too high to justify tax cuts in November although a majority believe that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will cut taxes anyway to raise the Government's political popularity.

The figure for August was flattened by about £400 million of privatisation proceeds, mostly from the sale of BT loan stock. Stripping out privatisation proceeds, borrowing in the first five months of this year has totalled £16.1 billion,

almost unchanged from the £16.7 billion recorded a year ago.

Coinciding with the latest borrowing figures was a call from the British Chambers of Commerce to cut red tape for business rather than taxes, with the organisation arguing that consumer demand is improving and that there are underlying inflationary pressures. At the same time, the chambers called for public spending to be maintained in key areas such as education and transport infrastructure. David Richardson, BCC President, said: "Above

all, careful management of the economy must not be driven off course by political expediency in an election year."

The Treasury was resolutely positive about yesterday's figures, saying that they were consistent with the Government hitting its PSBR target for this year of £27 billion. But City economists said that the Government's grip on public spending appears to be slipping as the general election approaches, warnings that found resonance in the Chancellor's statement yesterday that more than

a million civil servants and public sector workers will have to accept lower pay settlements in the 1997 financial year than this year.

Central government spending has so far risen by 4.5 per cent compared with last year's level, against a budgeted increase of 2.9 per cent. Andrew Cates of UBS Ltd said: "The onset of a general election is unlikely to prove conducive to spending restraint through the rest of this year and we expect the spending picture to deteriorate further." On the revenue side, the news

is mildly positive. Receipts so far this financial year are up 6.5 per cent compared with the Treasury's projection for the full year of 5.3 per cent. Within total tax receipts, VAT was disappointing after the buoyant growth seen in July which appeared to reflect strengthening consumer demand and spending. VAT receipts in August totalled £3.3 billion, about £1 billion less than last August. However, the picture may not be as negative as this suggests because the timing of VAT payments has changed. VAT receipts in the first five months of the year were still nearly 10 per cent higher than the same period a year ago.

Pay battle looms, page 1

BUSINESS
TODAY

STOCK MARKET
INDEXES

FTSE 100 3972.3 (-4.9)
Yield 3.92%
FTSE All share 1958.22 (-2.7)
Nikkei 21310.59 (+407.5)
New York 5866.83 (-22.57)
S&P Composite 682.02 (-1.96)

US RATES

Federal Funds 5.14%* (5.14%)
Long Bond 9.60%* (9.71%)
Yield 6.99%* (6.94%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank 5.1% (5.1%)
Libor long gilt future (Dec) 107.5% (107.5%)

STERLING

New York 1.5551* (1.5572)
London 1.5551 (1.5568)
S 2.3548 (2.3500)
DM 8.0012 (8.0049)
SF 1.3941 (1.3902)
Yen 171.37 (171.82)
Dollar 86.1 (86.1)

USD \$ DOLLAR

London 1.5140* (1.5108)
DM 5.1455* (5.1360)
SF 1.2445* (1.2410)
Yen 110.35* (110.20)
\$ Index 97.2 (97.2)

Tokyo close Yen 110.03

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec) \$21.40 (\$21.75)

GOLD

London close \$383.55 (\$382.70)

* denotes midday trading price

Sears plans four more Selfridges

BY JASON NISSE

SEARS, the troubled retailer, is to open up to four more regional Selfridges department stores on top of the new development in Manchester and the 200,000 sq ft of extra selling space in the Oxford Street store already announced.

Liam Strong, Sears' chief executive, said this was all part of move to capture the middle-class shopper. The further stores, which were unlikely to open before 2000, would be in city centres with large catchment areas, such as Glasgow or Birmingham.

The news came as Sears revealed a fall in pre-tax profits for the half year to July 31 from £29.9 million to £25 million. The drop comes largely because of the £25 million extra provision taken after the collapse of Stephen Hinchliffe's retailing empire meant that Sears had to take back 379 shoe shops sold to the Sheffield businessman. His businesses are now being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office.

Sears has now sold 165 of these shops and another 69 are under offer. The remainder are being closed at the cost of more than 2,000 jobs.

The shoe side had a poor half, with Sears admitting a like-for-like sales fall of 4.6 per

cent. Industry sources were bemused by these figures, as they believe that Sears' two main shoe brands, Shoe Express and Dolcis, had suffered falls in sales of 11 per cent and 14 per cent respectively.

The Freemans home shopping and Adams childrenswear operations also saw falls in sales, though this was blamed on poor market conditions. Mr Strong denied that Freemans was up for sale.

Womenswear enjoyed a recovery after a bad 1995 and the Selfridges business, which is starting to emerge as the jewel in the crown, had a 12.5 per cent increase in sales.

Most City analysts are expecting pre-tax profits for the year of between £90 million and £95 million.

Earnings per share were just 0.1p, down from 21.1p and the half-year dividend, payable on December 2, is unchanged at 1.05p.

□ Syro, which recently bought the Hush Puppy chain from Sears, saw pre-tax profits in the half-year to August 3 increase £100,000 to £57,000. Earnings per share were 1.26p (1.24p) and there is no dividend.

Tempus, page 26



Liam Strong, left, and Sir Bob Reid, chairman of Sears, with some Selfridges products

Tesco pulls off sales and profit spectacular

BY PAUL DURMAN

TESCO yesterday confirmed that it is still setting the pace among Britain's food retailers when it reported strong advances in profits, sales and volumes.

In spite of the petrol price war that is estimated to have cost it at least £20 million, the company increased pre-tax profits by 10.7 per cent to £321 million in the 24 weeks to August 10.

In the UK, Tesco's like-for-like sales grew by 7 per cent, and volumes by 3 per cent. The company has seen even faster growth over the last five weeks, with volumes up by 4 per cent.

One analyst described the like-for-like performance as "pretty spectacular".

However, Tesco's shares fell 5.1p to 297p as the City worried about the impact of its "unbeatable value" price promotion, launched last week.

Tesco estimates the promotion, which promises to give customers back twice the difference if they can find prices cheaper nearby, will cost an

initial £30 million, though this will rise if its rivals respond to the challenge.

Tesco's UK sales rose by 12.6 per cent to £6.3 billion, and are now 52 per cent higher than three years ago. Sir Ian MacLaurin, who is due to retire as executive chairman next year, said: "A 52 per cent increase in turnover over three years is a pretty phenomenal achievement. It is twice the average of the other three [J Sainsbury, Asda and Safeway] put together."

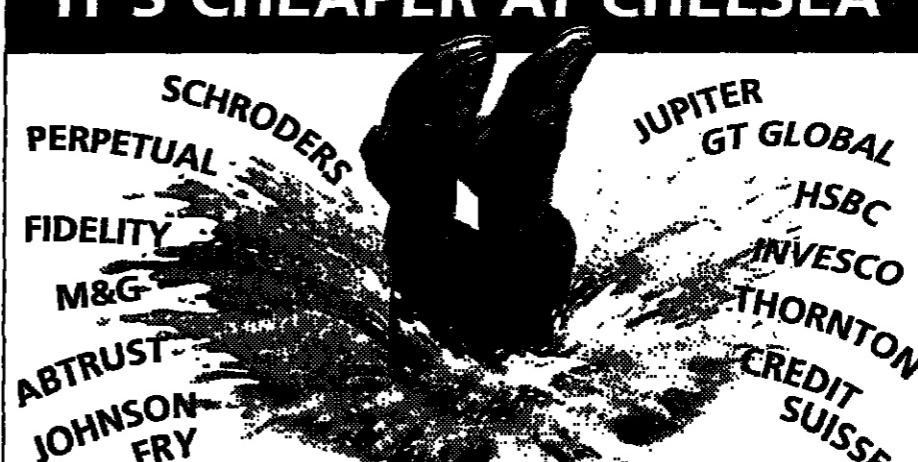
The Clubcard loyalty card now has 7 million users. Sir Ian said Clubcard Plus, the recently launched version with banking facilities, is also proving popular.

However, the group's profit margins have fallen back 0.3 per cent to 5.6 per cent almost all because of the petrol price war, according to Tesco.

Tesco has increased its interim dividend 6.6 per cent to 3.25p a share.

Pennington, page 25

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TS 18/96

P&O warning over Eurotunnel threat

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

P&O, the shipping company, said yesterday that consolidation on cross-channel ferry routes would have to take place quickly if the ferry industry was to survive competition from Eurotunnel.

Lord Sterling, chairman, said capacity would need to be cut by as much as a third on the Dover-Calais route.

He added that P&O had held talks with all its main competitors and was exploring avenues for co-operation, hinting that the company was looking to complete a deal before the end of the year.

P&O has been hit hard by competition from Eurotunnel. The company said that while total Dover-Calais traffic had risen 15 per cent this year, its own traffic had fallen and the route continued to incur losses.

Group profits for the six months to June 30 rose 2 per

SFO reviews evidence in Barings case

THE Serious Fraud Office (SFO) may extend its investigation into the Barings affair — 18 months after the UK's oldest merchant bank collapsed with losses of £30 million (Jon Ashworth and Robert Miller write).

The move shadows further rule-tightening in Singapore, where Nick Leeson, the former Barings trader, is serving a six-and-a-half-year sentence for cheating and deception.

The SFO is reviewing evidence taken by the Commons Treasury Select Committee earlier in the summer. It is not envisaged that charges will be brought.

Separately, the Securities and Futures Authority is continuing disciplinary proceedings against four former Barings executives, including Ron Baker, head of the financial products group. Clean image, page 27

Mortgage lending at A&L down 47%

BY KAREN ZAGOR

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER, the building society that plans a stock market flotation next year, suffered a 47 per cent drop in gross mortgage lending in the first half of this year.

Peter White, group chief executive, said: "We were way above our market share before in mortgages and there were some not very sensible pricing decisions being made by competitors. We decided we were not going to chase market share while going through conversion at the same time."

Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at UBS, said: "This is the reality of societies becoming plc. They now have to think of shareholder value and return on capital, and when they do the sums they cannot compete with the cut-throat mortgage offers."

Pre-tax profits for the six months rose 12 per cent, to £183 million. Girobank, which the society owns, contributed £30 million, compared with £30.5 million a year earlier.

giving a return on equity of 26 per cent. Last year, Mr Cayne, 62, was paid a mere \$9.5 million and Mr Spector, 38, widely seen as Mr Cayne's successor, got only \$8.5 million.

Ironically, the bank instituted rule changes in 1992 designed to make it harder for top executives to win excessive bonuses.

Most of the high pay packages are in the form of bonuses since the bank's executives receive a base salary of \$200,000 a year. However, they are fortunate that the bonus element is linked to return on equity and not share performance. Bear Stearns' shares have gained just 15 per cent over the last year.

Goldman Sachs plans to pay each of its general partners only \$5 million, much of which is retained within the firm, in spite of doubling its profits for the first nine months of the year to \$1.9 billion.

A Bear market nets \$81m for five directors

FROM RICHARD THOMSON
IN NEW YORK

FIVE directors at Bear Stearns, the Wall Street investment bank, are paying themselves a total of \$81.5 million for 1996, setting a new standard in a business already notorious for its high remuneration. James Cayne, the chief executive, receives a pay cheque of \$20.4 million while Alan Greenberg, the chairman,

Mace quits Vardon division

David Mace has resigned as executive chairman of the attractions division of Vardon, the leisure group, with a view to setting up a Spanish equivalent of Sea Life, its underwater theme park chain.

Mr Mace, who sold Sea Life to Vardon in 1992, is in talks to buy the group's newly opened attraction in Spain.

In the first half of the year, the group saw its pre-tax profits drop 22 per cent, to £1.82 million on sales up 20 per cent, at £29.6 million. Its shares fell from 108p to 88½p yesterday. An interim dividend of 0.45p (0.4p) will be paid on November 15, from earnings of 1.4p per share (2p).

Client growth

A spate of new clients including the Prudential and Granada boosted the pre-tax profit of Abbott Mead Vickers, the advertising group, by 35 per cent to £4.7 million in the half year to June 30. Turnover rose 16 per cent to £159 million and the interim dividend, payable on October 25, rises from 2.69p to 3.25p. Shares rose 14p to 59p.

UCM ahead

Universal Ceramic Materials earned pre-tax profits of £1.67 million (£1.45 million) in the half year to June 30. Earnings were 4.5p (4.2p) a share. The interim dividend is increased to 1.6p (1.5p).

Jarvis soars

Jarvis, the construction and facilities management company, reported pre-tax profits of £590,000 (£108,000) for the six months to June 30. Earnings rose to 1.3p (0.3p) a share. There is again no interim dividend.

Payout held

Automotive Precision Holdings, the manufacturer of high-precision components, is holding the interim dividend at 1.7p a share. In the six months to June 30 pre-tax profits fell to £2.7 million (£2.8 million) and earnings were 4.5p a share (4.6p). The alliance is awaiting



Terry Twigger, left, and Mike Stacey wear protective jackets made by Meggitt that have been ordered by the police

British Airways job losses likely to be limited to 5,000

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR British Airways managers will today learn how many jobs are to be lost as a result of a radical shake-up of the airline.

Worried staff had feared that up to 10,000 jobs could be axed as part of a reorganisation of the airline over the next three years. But Robert Ayling, chief executive, will tell a meeting of managers at

Heathrow that the final figure could be about 5,000.

Mr Ayling will outline his vision for "the second transformation" of the airline which, he claims, is essential if BA is to compete in the fast-changing international marketplace.

The managers, who will then hold departmental meetings to explain the changes to staff, will be told that the change made to the airline in the 1980s was a "textbook operation", but that rivals

have now caught up and costs are rising faster than revenue.

Growing pressure from low-cost airlines, such as EasyJet, together with the expected increase in competition at Heathrow from any "open skies" agreement with the United States has meant that another reorganisation is inevitable, Mr Ayling will say.

This will involve laying off several parts of the airline, which will then operate either as "stand alone" units within

the parent company or be sold entirely to outsiders. No firm details of which areas will go will be outlined today and it will therefore be impossible to give any firm job loss figures.

The changes, will include the development of new intra-European routes from next April, after the completion of "open skies" within Europe, and another major alliance with a Far Eastern airline, which will take three years to be fully implemented. Once

the first part of the planned reorganisation has been completed next year the airline will be given a new logo and new paint scheme, which will cost £60 million. Details of the new design are still being worked on, but BA wants to take on a "global" identity.

Hopes are rising within BA that the planned alliance with American Airlines will be approved by the Office of Fair Trading, opening the way to the signing of a general bilateral air services agreement between Britain and the US.

British negotiators have accepted that the US will never agree to foreign airlines being allowed to operate domestic services within the US. But they are insisting that US airline should not have "beyond rights" from Britain to another country.

Although the talks are stalled, a behind-the-scenes deal is likely to be signed quickly once the OFT has given the go-ahead to the proposed BA/AA link up.

USAir rules out role in alliance

FROM RICHARD THOMSON
IN NEW YORK

USAIR has signalled a deep rupture with British Airways, its 25 per cent owner, by declaring that it cannot be involved in the proposed partnership between BA and American Airlines.

The alliance is awaiting

regulatory approval in Britain and America. Stephen Wolf, USAir's chairman, said: "We simply do not believe we can be part of it." Although BA has said it does not plan to dispose of its stake in the company if its deal with American goes ahead, insiders have speculated for weeks that USAir is a potential

barricade for BA, however, as its plans to combine with American look increasingly rocky. Talks between the British and US Governments on a new "open skies" agreement have broken down for the time being. The BA-American deal can only proceed once the open skies question has been settled.

Insurer seeks to answer criticism

BY MARTIN BARROW

DOMESTIC & General Group yesterday sought to answer criticism of domestic appliance breakdown insurance policies, claiming that consumer demand for cover remained strong.

The company, one of Britain's leading providers of breakdown insurance for domestic appliances, reported a 7.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £11.4 million for the year to June 30.

Martin Copley, chairman, said: "Instinctively, the public seems to understand what our statistical data confirms: namely, that with few exceptions the average electrical appliance is little more reliable than five years ago, whereas repair costs have risen considerably."

Insurance policies covering domestic appliances have attracted considerable criticism because of their relatively high cost as a proportion of the total cost of the product and the difficulty consumers frequently encounter when attempting to make a claim.

The policies have been the subject of an inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading.

Mr Copley said that there had been a modest deterioration in the company's loss

ration on policies, which was at least partly attributable to "the growing awareness by policyholders of their right to claim".

Domestic & General hopes to expand further in continental Europe, where its fledgeling business earned £53,000 in the first half. The company said that the greatest potential for expansion existed in Germany.

The total dividend rises to 40.25p a share from 33.30p, with a 25p final. Earnings increased to 112.53p a share from 100.62p. The shares were unchanged at 17.95.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

US damages ruling lifts shares in BAT

BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services company, yesterday enjoyed a rare jump in its share price after a court dismissed most of a smoking damages case brought by the state authorities in Florida. BAT shares rose 23½p to 462½p, compared with a year low of 422p. The shares are still 20 per cent below the year high of 588p, which they hit in February before the tobacco industry suffered a series of legal setbacks in the US. The company said the ruling meant that BAT and Baus Holdings, its US holding company, would not be liable for any damages awarded against Brown and Williamson, its US tobacco subsidiary.

The court also reduced the number of actions that the State of Florida could proceed with from 18 to three and ruled that each action must be tried separately. The news also boosted tobacco stocks in America, with Philip Morris up \$2.75 to \$94.75 and RJR Nabisco Holdings up \$0.75 to \$27.25. The tobacco industry still faces about 14 other class-action suits.

Telekom payout pledge

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM, the state-owned phone company that is to be privatised by the German Government this autumn, said it would pay DM1.5 billion in dividends to shareholders at the end of this year. The net yield could not be determined because the details of the flotation, such as the number of shares to be sold, are not known. But analysts said it was likely to be 4 per cent to 5 per cent — similar to other large telecoms groups. The company reported net income of DM130 million (DM700 million) in the half year to June 30.

Asda Property stake sold

MANNY DAVIDSON, founder and chairman of Asda Property Holdings, has sold 40 per cent of his family's stake in the company for £16.8 million. The deal, which took all of the shares to institutions, takes Mr Davidson's family stake from 35 per cent to 22 per cent. The shares were sold at 145p, against yesterday's closing price of 155½p. In the six months to June 30, Asda Property lifted pre-tax profits to £5.07 million (£3.35 million). Earnings were 2.3p per share (1.8p). An interim dividend of 0.85p (0.8p) will be paid on November 1.

Olivetti at record low

SHARES in Olivetti tumbled to a record low of 465 lire in a wave of panic selling as the company scrambled to answer fresh questions from Italy's stock market regulators about the state of its finances. The sense of crisis was reinforced by news that Carlo De Benedetti, former chairman, and Antonio Tesone, chairman, are under preliminary investigation by magistrates in the company's home town of Ivrea. Francesco Calo, chief executive, is also under investigation. The magistrates suspect Olivetti may have issued misleading statements about its affairs.

Treats shares fall

SHARES of Treats Group, the lollipop maker that floated in June, fell from 134p to 100½p yesterday after it said poor summer weather had left it unlikely to make a profit in its second half. Barry Thomas, chief executive, said that the group would make an overall profit by the year end. In the 26 weeks to June 29, pre-tax profits were 10 per cent down at £1.51 million. Earnings were 10.5p per share (11.6p). A maiden interim dividend of 1.5p will be paid on October 15.

Warning by Roxboro

ROXBORO GROUP, the specialist engineering company, saw £46.6 million wiped off its market value yesterday after a profits warning sent its shares down 83p to 230p. The group lifted turnover to £55.1 million (£45.8 million) in the first half. Pre-tax profits were flat at £8.01 million (£8.16 million), leaving earnings of 9.7p (10.2p) per share. An interim dividend of 2.25p (2p) is payable on October 30. The shares recovered slightly to reach 232½p.

Travis Perkins ahead

PROFITS at Travis Perkins, the supplier of timber and building materials, edged forward to £17.22 million before tax from £16.91 million in the six months to June 30. The increase was attributed to a five-month contribution from newly acquired BMSS, whose 26 branches have increased the total number of Travis Perkins outlets to 248. Earnings rose to 11.2p a share from 10.8p. The interim dividend is increased to 3p a share from 2.8p due November 1.

Vymura holds dividend

VYMURA, the maker of wallcoverings, is holding the interim dividend at 1.6p a share after reporting a fall in pre-tax profits to £1.27 million (£1.34 million) in the six months to June 30. Earnings fell to 3.47p (3.5p) share. There was a £308,000 restructuring charge. The company said there had been an encouraging start to the second half with sales for July and August well ahead of the disappointing levels in the same period in 1995. The shares rose 19½p to 152½p.

How to
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From Thursday 26th September, The Times introduces an exciting new Appointments Section. It includes First Executive, especially for graduates and young professionals in the early stages of their careers.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia S ...	2.07	1.91
Austria Sch ...	17.53	16.03
Belgium Fr ...	51.38	47.06
Canada Cdn ...	2.08	2.07
China Cny ...	0.757	0.757
Denmark Kr ...	9.62	8.82
Finland Maa ...	7.64	6.93
France Fr ...	7.25	7.74
Germany Dm ...	2.50	2.28
Greece Dr ...	389	324
Hong Kong \$...	12.67	11.57
Iceland Isk ...	115	95
Israel She ...	1.62	0.92
Italy Lira ...	5.32	4.67
Japan Yen ...	2482	2277
Lithuania Lt ...	165.70	169.47
Malta ...	0.002	0.547
Netherlands Gld ...	2.788	2.58
New Zealand \$...	2.38	2.17
Norway Kr ...	10.61	8.81
Portugal Esc ...	25.20	22.87
S Africa Rand ...	7.67	8.77
Spain Pta ...	204.50	191.50
Sweden Kr ...	10.96	10.18
Switzerland Fr ...	1.65	1.81
Turkey Lira ...	141.350	132.000
USA \$...	1.65	1.52

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□ Grocers shrug off "store wars" □ Uncertain future for the country's pensioners □ Rationalisation looms on cross-Channel routes

□ RECEIVED wisdom has it that the big supermarkets, after years of overcharging us all for our basic needs, have been forced by "store wars" to cut back on their greed and hand over some of their loot to the shopper through lower prices. Received wisdom is wrong on both fronts.

Listen to this City analyst, asked if we can look forward to more price cuts in the run-up to Christmas. "There's no net gain for anybody if all go in for wholesale slicing of prices in one category," he replied, thus providing one might suggest, a useful example of a cavelier in operation. The supermarkets, for all the appearance of cut-throat competition, are still doing very nicely indeed.

First, the matter of their earlier "over-charging". British supermarkets have enjoyed margins well ahead of those in most other countries, heading for 10 per cent in the case of food sales at Marks & Spencer, the clear leader, because the shopper has been prepared to accept these in return for convenience. Next time you are in one, compare the price per pound of the ready-packed vegetables and their loose equivalents. Then see which walk off the shelves first.

Now to "store wars". Tesco, Sainsbury, Safeway and Asda between them control three-fifths of all food sales, and in such a

market a remarkable unanimity of pricing is not hard to achieve. The fall in operating margins at Tesco yesterday, of 0.3 percentage points to 5.6 per cent, is almost entirely down to the war being fought out at the petrol forecourt, which is not a conflict instigated or desired by the grocers. For Tesco at least, those limited price cuts on food could be matched by cost savings within the stores.

We will have to wait until November, and their own interim figures, to see if Sainsbury and Safeway have managed the same trick, but the betting is they have. What has been happening is that certain bulk lines have had their prices cut, often by means of multi-buys and other promotions. The higher-margin prepared stuff, where each supermarket can distinguish its product from the other, has held its price. This pattern looks set to continue, with much-trumpeted promotions of selected lines this autumn rather than cross-store price-slashing.

Tesco has managed its remarkable resurgence by concentrating on peripheral de-

tails — its with-interest loyalty card and checkout packers, for example, which, experience suggests, will eventually become standard at the rest. It has gained market share, but November will show if the others have too, at the expense of the embattled independents. The betting, too, is that they have.

This increase aside, food retailing is a static, no-growth business, which is why Tesco and others are looking overseas. But what business. Plenty of other retailers have skirted disaster; some have met it head on. But no one has ever suggested one of our leading grocers might go bust.

Penny-pinching on pensions

□ THE more politicians aim to rely on the private sector to provide decent pensions in the next century, the more the private sector shies away. Not us, guys, we can't afford it either.

The latest painful evidence comes from a survey for the Association of Consulting Actuaries of 468 small companies



with up to 250 employees. It finds that there has been so rapid a switch from schemes paying a pension based on final salary to money-purchase investment plans that 60 per cent now have them and a further 23 per cent have group personal pensions, which also define contributions rather than retirement benefits.

In itself, that is no bad thing. Such schemes are less complex for small firms and fit an era of greater mobility. The trouble is that employers are taking the opportunity to skimp on pension costs. On average, employer and employee contribute a combined 8.2 per cent of pay, compared with 15.4 per cent for final-salary schemes. That is a "cut" of more than 7 per cent. Even allowing

for membership of Serps, more common in money purchase schemes, there is a 5.6 per cent contributions gap.

At this rate, claim the actuaries, people will be lucky to get 20-30 per cent of their pay in retirement, much less than the 40 per cent or more that final salary schemes usually intend to produce. It is not just small firms either. A recent survey of big companies by actuary Lane, Clark & Peacock found that some 100 company spends only 3 per cent of its payroll on pensions.

This is not an argument over the type of scheme but the scale of contribution. Unless somebody puts 10-15 per cent of pay in pension contributions, nothing satisfying is likely to come out the other end.

At the very moment when politicians are trying to talk down people's expectations of state pensions, realistic expectations of private pensions for the half of employees working for smaller firms are also falling. The trend is in the same direction for larger firms, though at an

so ensuring a downward spiral in prices. The situation goes against the normal rules of economics, because demand for cross-Channel travel is rising, up 15 per cent year-on-year.

The reason, of course, is the Channel Tunnel, which P&O says is using its enviable position as an effective bankrupt, free of the normal business disciplines, to cut tariffs. Pass on for a moment from the thought of a management that actually envies Eurotunnel's financial plight, because the complaint is at least partly justified. This is why the Government lifted a ban on co-operation between the two big

P&O's purchase of North Sea Ferries is therefore only the start of a sustained effort by Lord Sterling, who is aware he is living on borrowed time in the City, to pull around the ferries operation. Expect more moves on the Western Channel routes to Brittany and Normandy, and on the Hull-Scandinavia crossing. But first, expect a Stena deal in time for the end of the year and next spring's brochures.

This will not amount to a full merger. But a comprehensive stick-up of the Dover-Calais run, and the loss of any number of older ferries, should be viewed benignly by the Government, so easing concerns over the attitude of the competition authorities.

Wanted: ferry to wave a magic wand

□ THIS summer Brittany Ferries, which plies its cross-Channel trade only because of a running, and possibly illegal, subsidy from the French Government, decided to celebrate its 20th anniversary in a novel way.

For a while all fares were to be pegged at 1976 prices. Then came the snag. The prices were some 25 per cent higher in those days.

It is hard to think of another consumer product that has even held its price in nominal terms over 20 years of inflation. It is harder to think of a more graphic demonstration of the viciousness of the cross-Channel price war. The ferry operators are now in a no-win situation where each is pledged to match price cuts brought in by any of the others,

Rush over new test lifts BSM

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE severe pressure on construction margins shows little sign of relenting, Taylor Woodrow said yesterday.

The building and property company has reduced its exposure to construction in the UK after project famine caused by the recession. It said it was now bidding for fewer private finance initiative projects and was likely to scale back further.

However, the restoration of health to a number of divisions boosted interim pre-tax profits by 81 per cent to £25.7 million. The interim dividend, payable on November 1, rises 33 per cent to 1p, although the company warned investors not to expect a similar increase in the full dividend.

Losses in construction were reduced to £1.2 million in the six months to June 30 from £10.7 million in the first half of 1995. The turnaround was largely fuelled by increased work overseas, while the UK continued to trade in the red. As part of its shakeout in construction Taylor Woodrow closed Myton, its specialist refurbishing division, at a cost of £2 million.

While international construction buoyed its less healthy domestic counterpart, it too has become a less lucrative area for the company as fiercer competition sets in.



Colin Parsons says margins on international construction are under pressure because of increased competition

Colin Parsons, the chairman, said that margins in international construction were weakening. Traditionally, it has produced profit margins of about 5 per cent but new players are bidding for work with tenders substantially below the usual rates. Mr Parsons said.

The company is, however, hopeful of prospects in the second half and sees a modest revival in the UK housing market. David Green, finance director, said the upturn would translate into increased volumes before any firming of house prices fed through. Also, land prices were rising

sharply in many parts of the country, adding to a squeeze on margins. A typical plot price has climbed from £18,000 at the end of last year to £19,100 at the end of June. Taylor Woodrow's housing division pushed up profits 5 per cent to £9.6 million amid a mixed international picture.

A new chief executive is expected to be announced before Taylor Woodrow's next results. Tony Palmer said yesterday that he would retire next year, after 43 years with the company and six years at the helm.

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Channel 5 launch delayed

BY ERIC REGULY

THE launch of Channel 5 will be delayed by as much as six weeks and cost an extra £20 million because of the time required to return the millions of video recorders in the channel's newly enlarged coverage area. David Elstein, chief executive, said yesterday.

The expanded returning effort will mean that Channel 5 will not start broadcasting until some time in the first half of February. The channel's owners — Pearson, Warburg

He said the cost of the returning effort would proba-

Warning hits Watmoughs

SHARES of Watmoughs (Holdings) fell 44½p to 41½p yesterday after the printing company reported a decline in first-half profits and gave warning of mixed trading conditions in the second half.

In the six months to June 30 pre-tax profits fell to £9.62 million (£10.07 million due to UK reorganisation costs of £1.14 million and strong competition).

The interim dividend rises to 2.75p a share from 2.5p, payable November 8.

Brent beats City forecasts

BY PAUL DURMAN

SHARES of Brent International rose 8½p to 107p yesterday after the printing company reported a decline in first-half profits and gave warning of mixed trading conditions in the second half.

In the six months to June 30 pre-tax profits fell to £9.62 million (£10.07 million due to UK reorganisation costs of £1.14 million and strong competition).

Brent is recovering from several years of declining profits.

The star performer was the imaging management divi-

sion, which looks after packaging. New customers, including Nestlé and Iceland, helped to push up sales 26 per cent to £15.5 million and lift profits from £80,000 to £2 million.

Cost-cutting in the industrial chemicals business lifted profits to £2.5 million (£1.8 million) on sales slightly higher at £30.9 million.

Keith Hutchings, chief executive, said the inks and coatings arm had turned down contracts because of

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TYPE

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

BAT shares light up on court ruling in Florida

BAT Industries stood out among the top 100 companies with a leap of 23p to 462½p after a court in Florida reiterated an earlier ruling that cases involving claims for tobacco-related illnesses brought before 1994 will not be heard. Tobacco companies and their shareholders who face multi-million dollar claims from smokers for negligence welcomed the news.

The Florida court has also ruled that BAT can isolate its assets and those of Batus, its American holding company, from any cancer-related claims that its Brown & Williamson subsidiary may face.

BAT's share price has fallen from a peak of almost 600p this year since a court victory by one smoker and worries about similar claims. The US tobacco industry currently faces 14 state class actions seeking compensation for medical expenses.

Elsewhere investors ignored Wall Street's strong performance overnight and the London market showed signs of running out of steam after its recent record-breaking run. A sharp opening fall on Wall Street last night, amid revived fears of a rise in US interest rates, convinced investors that London may have run far enough for the time being. But the market steadied itself to halve earlier falls, with the FTSE 100 index ending 4.9 points down at 3,972.3 on turnover of 763 million.

Half-year figures from Tesco, Britain's leading food retailer, received a lukewarm reception from the City with the price closing 5½p down at 279p. Pre-tax profits £36 million higher at £326 million were much in line with brokers' forecasts.

Tesco's performance also left the other food retailers lower with brokers clearly worried about the price war in the run-up to Christmas. Stories doing the rounds claimed Asda, 5½p off at 103p, is about to launch a new promotion campaign which will put its rivals under renewed pressure. William Morrison Supermarkets lost 5½p at 162½p, and there were also losses for Sainsbury, 9p at 369½p, Safeway, 5½p at 326½p and Somerfield 4½p at 155p.

A strong buy recommendation from Kleinwort Benson, the broker, lifted BTG 57½p to 191.52½, while British Biotech was 8½p better at



BSM shares moved ahead 3½p on good news

201½p ahead of today's first-quarter figures.

P&O, which has just merged its container business with Royal Nedlloyd, slipped 1p to 593½p after warning about difficult conditions in the second half. In the first six months pre-tax profits were marginally ahead, with the benefits of recent rationalisation unlikely to fil-

tainer, were given the benefit of the doubt with the price marking time at 97p. Brokers say the group will benefit from the upturn in consumer spending, but faces an uphill struggle.

Dealers reported continued selective support for the other retailers with Harvey Nichols adding 8p at 341½p, Blacks Leisure up to 238p, French Connection 8p at 242½p, and

Abbott Mead Vickers, the advertising agency, 14p to 595p. BSM Group, the car driving tuition group, closed a shade below its best of the year with a rise of 3½p at 201½p after raising half-year profits by £500,000 to £2.9 million.

A profits setback left Watmoughs nursing a fall of 47½p at 413p. The cost of restructuring has cost the group £1.14 million.

A drop in profits and a halving of the dividend left Exco International, the money broker, nursing a loss of 2½p at 66p, while Roxboro Group fell out of bed with a drop of 80½p at 232½p as analysts downgraded their estimates for the full year.

Treats, the ice cream manufacturer, saw its share price melt 34p to 100½p after warning that it was unlikely to make a second-half profit.

Brokers shrugged off first-half losses from Cassell, the publisher, which ended the session 4p better at 76½p, while Acorn Computer Group firms 1p to 229½p after more than halving the first-half deficit to £3.32 million. A sharp drop in interim profits left Claremont Garments 91½p lower at 234p. A first-half drop in profits at Vymura was offset by a confident statement about trading prospects and the price rose 23p to 155p.

An increase in first-half profits at Savoy lifted the shares 30p to 13.62½p.

GILT-EDGE: Attempts at a rally after lunch proved short lived when US Treasury bonds kicked in with opening falls as fears about a rate rise were rekindled. US Federal Reserve sources were quoted as saying that three out of eight US banks were calling for a rise in the discount rate.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt finished a couple of ticks easier at 107½32 having briefly touched 108½16. The total number of contracts completed reached 59,000.

In longs Treasury 8 per cent 2015 had three ticks easier at 199½32 with Treasury 8 per cent 2000 shedding a similar amount at 103½32 in shorts. **NEW YORK:** A rally in technology and tobacco shares helped to cushion the fall on Wall Street as profit-takers moved in on renewed fears of an imminent interest rate rise. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 22.57 points lower at 5,866.63.

Next 3p to 600p ahead of half-year figures later this morning. These are expected to show pre-tax profits up from £44.1 million to £55 million. Profit-taking left Dixons 10½p down at 566p.

Brent International, the chemicals specialist, responded to better than expected first-half figures with a rise of 8½p at 107p. A strong performance at the half-year stage lifted

Half-year figures from Searle, the struggling Selfridges and Freemans re-

turned for another couple of years.

Taylor Woodrow failed to benefit from a near doubling of half-year profits and some positive noises about its construction arm, which is expected to return to the black this year. The shares finished 3p lighter at 173p.

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THE
TIMES

CITY
DIARY

Millwall boss comes clean

NEWS from out West where Peter Mead, joint chairman of Abbott Mead Vickers, BBDO, the advertising agency, was spotted in Kew, with police tailing the bumper of his Aston Martin Vantage.

On his way home from a football match in Peterborough in the early hours of the morning, Mead was stopped and accused of "straddling the cycle lane". Refusing to step outside his monstrous vehicle, Mead declared that he had not touched a drop of alcohol for a month. When the police suggested that they thought he was hiding something, Mead came clean: "Yes, I am. I'm chairman of Millwall."

Money to burn

BRITISH GAS launched an investigation yesterday after admitting that it had sent a customer in York 12 letters confirming the date of a central heating check-up. Sylvia Dunn, of Copmanthorpe, near York, was flabbergasted when she received the mountain of mail in response to her request for confirmation of the service visit. "What a complete waste of money," she complains. "They cost a lot in postage, but you can only imagine what they cost in administration." British Gas says that it is treating the case as a matter of urgency, but the inquiry is probably too late for Mrs Dunn, who plans to cancel her £112 service contract and recruit a local person instead.



MacLaurin office

A SECTION of Tesco's staff is on the move to a former ICI building in Welwyn Garden City. The supermarket group has spent £18.5 million on the 110,000 sq ft offices in Stirlings Park, rather than knock down Old Tesco House, which is across the road from the current offices used by the staff in Cheshunt and which Tesco had intended to rebuild from scratch. Word has it that the new building will be named after Sir Ian MacLaurin when he stands down next June. But where will the rehoused staff buy their prawn and avocado sandwiches at lunchtime? Welwyn Garden City offers only a Sainsburys or Waitrose?

On the ball

A HAT trick for Chris Wright, the boss of Chrysalis and nouveau sports mogul, whose three teams came good last weekend. Wasps in Rugby Union, QPR in football, and Sheffield Sharks in basketball, were all winners. Alas, none of Wright's racehorses were running, or he could have secured a clean sweep.

Kaye role

MSL, the recruitment advertising and executive search business, which is to be listed on the Alternative Investment Market this month, has announced the appointment of Michael Kaye, chairman of M&S Saatchi, as a non-executive director. MSL was acquired by Saatchi & Saatchi in 1984 and bought out of Saatchi in 1992 by Garry Long. MSL's current chairman, So the Saatchi connection continues...

MICHAEL PRESTON

Women's leaders set out new agenda for action

Philip Bassett
on a drive to
win manifesto
commitments
on equality

Women currently constitute just under half of Britain's workforce. Forecasts suggest that women workers will form a majority early in the new century. Business is — slowly — adapting to that. So, too, is politics. But Britain's main women's organisations today are pressing for faster change and, in particular, clear commitments to equality issues in the coming election.

Kamlesh Bahl, who chairs the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), is making the economic and business impact of equality a central part of the overall case for equal treatment — at work, in the home, in general.

Moving round the circuits of the CBI, chambers of commerce, and governmental and women's networks, she strives to ensure that equality issues are not relegated to the economic margins, but are seen as crucial to business and economic life.

Today the EOC and the Women's National Committee (WNC), the official independent body offering advice to the Government on women's issues, go one step further.

In issuing a new national agenda for action, they challenge the main political parties to include in their election manifestos firm commitments on equality within the framework not just of social justice but of economic efficiency in terms of improving Britain's economic performance and its international competitiveness.

Liz Bavidge, co-chairman of the WNC, says: "Studies show that it is the way women vote that forms the Government." Kamlesh Bahl agrees: "Our message to the politicians today is: ignore this agenda at your peril."

Economic equality, particularly in the workplace, is still a new aspect of the relationship between business and politics, but women's leaders insist it is a central one.

In the general election in 1992, for example, women's votes held largely steadfast, showing a swing of only half a



Women have made progress in the workplace but the pace of change in equality is a key issue

percentage point from Conservative to Labour, while men showed a 3.5 per cent swing.

Women — who now form 51 per cent of the electorate — showed a clear Conservative preference: 44 per cent of women voted Tory, as against 41 per cent of men, while 37 per cent of men voted Labour, against only 34 per cent of women. The Liberal Democrats polled 18 per cent among each sex.

New research by the Fawcett Society, a pressure group, shows that women now vote in larger numbers than men and that the majority of floating voters are female. The society says that 23 per cent of women have not yet decided how they will vote at the next

election, compared with 16 per cent of men. Among those who voted Conservative at the last election, twice as many women, 12 per cent, as men are now undecided about how to vote.

Faced with such facts, the EOC and WNC are targeting political leaders and local constituencies about a range of equality issues based on a set of ten policy papers that the two organisations are publishing today.

Although some of the issues are primarily social — women's participation in decision-making, violence against women — most are determinedly economic, in line with the EOC's new thrust: the cost and the benefits to employers

of, for example, childcare, education and training.

EOC and WNC leaders are careful not to align themselves with any particular political party and are prominently displaying endorsements of their approach from John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown.

Labour is giving thought to combining the EOC with the Commission for Racial Equality and other bodies in a new equality issues commission, but some Conservatives have always found the EOC and similar organisations too interventionist and regulatory for their tastes.

Among the more contentious areas being proposed by women's leaders is action on

Singapore plays on squeaky clean image to win tourists



Restrictions and a safe environment may be the things that attract visitors to Singapore

Singapore is often vilified as the ultimate Big Brother state — and not without reason. The flow of information is tightly controlled. Littering and smoking invite stiff fines. The feared cane, the *rattan*, is ready to mete out punishment to offenders. Nick Leeson, the rogue Barings trader, could hardly have picked a worse place in which to conduct his illicit trading activities.

The Barings affair caused deep embarrassment in Singapore, as much for the suggestion that local supervision was inadequate as for the emphasis placed on the state's authoritarianism. With a new book on the debate threatening to open old wounds, officials have embarked on a further round of rule-tightening.

Trading on the Singapore International Monetary Exchange (Simex) has come under closer supervision, and links with foreign regulators, notably the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), have been strengthened. The discovery of irregularities at Morgan Grenfell and Jardine Fleming has prompted a further review of fund management systems and controls.

But Singapore's desire to control extends far beyond the realm of media and commerce. Its new target is the future — and the millions of tourists forecast to visit Asia in the next few years. Authorities have launched a \$140 million promotional drive, aimed at positioning Singapore as the business and tourism hub of South-East Asia. As always, little has been left to chance.

Tourism worldwide is a \$3.6 trillion industry, employing 255 million people, and accounting for 10.7 per cent of world GDP, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council. By 2000, tourism-related jobs are set to top 385 million, in an industry worth an estimated \$7.1 trillion — 11.5

percentages elsewhere in Asia. Mr Hung said: "Being hassled by touts at the airport can be a memorable experience. Losing your wallet can be a memorable experience."

He added: "Singapore has had a reputation for tearing things down. We realise that it cannot begin to compete with the jungles and beaches of Malaysia, Thailand and Bali. What it can do is play on its squeaky clean image, offering a safe and efficient place in which to start one's visit."

The idea is to transform popular areas such as Chinatown and Orchard Road into "thematic zones", refurbishing disused warehouses, and playing up Singapore's historical roots. Transport and entrance fees will be covered by a single Singapore Tourist Card.

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ANTHONY
HARRIS

Why Rubin is wrong about EC stability

some politically charged issues. For example, the EOC and the WNC endorse the principle of a minimum wage — supported by Labour, opposed by the Government — as one important method of trying to bridge the pay gap between men and women, which sticks stubbornly at about 20 per cent.

The two bodies are making their usual and long ignored call for a rationalisation of legislation on equality issues. Business would agree rapidly to some of this. Maternity rights under law, for instance, are currently governed by 18 different pieces of legislation under three quite different government departments.

But business is likely to be less happy with calls for the political parties to commit themselves to "equal rights and protection for all workers, irrespective of their patterns of work or status".

The Government is opposed to such blanket treatment and is bracing itself for what it expects will be a defeat shortly in the European Court on 48-hour working week.

And although John Smith, the former Labour leader, pledged the party to precisely such a commitment, key union leaders are convinced that the new leadership is trying to abandon it — putting the EOC and the WNC beyond the current Opposition.

Kamlesh Bahl insists that such differences on particular points of policy are precisely what the new pre-election exercise is trying to show — not to score any political and, particularly, not party political points. Instead the aim is to try to draw from the main parties policy proposals and commitments on equality issues that will both allow women, and men, to inform their electoral choice fully and allow the EOC and the WNC to demonstrate what policies offer most for equality in terms of its contribution to economic performance and competitiveness.

When the two groups, and the EOC for Northern Ireland, which is also promoting the campaign today, get their findings in three to four months' time, after meetings all the party leaders, they say they will publish the results, testing against how they will best marry equality and economic issues.

Kamlesh Bahl says: "It's not our job to make a recommendation to women, or men, on how they should vote. But the voting patterns of women in particular have been recognised by all the political parties as a factor that will make a difference in the election of the next government."

No many Europeans were listening when, in the only contentious speech at the Democrat convention, Ron Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, fired a shot across the bows of the Community. European policies, he said, were in danger of becoming excessively deflationary, and a threat to world growth. His target, all commentators seem to agree (and as the Finance Ministers about to meet in Dublin are aware was not the struggle to achieve Maastricht convergence (which America is trying to treat as a purely internal folly) but the proposed stability pact to follow EMU. This would make fiscal restraint not just an exam crisis, but a permanent commitment deflate, or else.

Most analysts seem to agree with Rubin: but though a clumsily drafted stability pact could be a threat to growth, the idea that fiscal restraint always means recession is wrong. Rubin should know this: the US is enjoying one of its longest upswings while reducing the Federal deficit faster than anyone thought possible; Japan remains in recession despite a huge fiscal injection. The trouble is not that the conventional wisdom — fiscal policy controls growth, monetary policy controls inflation — is grossly oversimplified. It is perverse.

Look at inflation, for a start. This has fallen — again, faster than forecast — in every advanced industrial country, and central bankers are sickenedly self-satisfied about it. But did they have much to do with it? Look round the world, and you will see every kind of central bank policy: strict targeting in Germany, follow-my-leader in Paris, seat-of-the-pants in Washington, and reckless monetary expansion in Tokyo. No central banking triumph there.

Structural change and global trade, then? Yes, in the US and Britain; but across the Channel (and still more in Japan) trade remains partly protected, and structural reform has hardly begun. But nearly all these countries do have one thing in common: a planned fiscal squeeze, even if it has yet to work in countries with inadequate growth. Japan, the exception, has suffered a financial collapse, the most powerful of all deflators. So what might a future historian conclude? Surely that, barring nasty accidents, it is fiscal rather than monetary policy that governs inflation. And if he contrasts the policies of the Fed and Bundesbank, he may also conclude that it is monetary policy which determines growth. In short, the reverse of the conventional wisdom. And Enoch Powell, who argued that government borrowing is the sole source of inflation, was right all along.

The reasoning behind this is common sense: businesses borrow to expand; consumers plan to repay; but governments just borrow. Only they, in the long term, add to demand, but not to supply, which is inflationary. That was the Lawson philosophy; and though he forgot to guard against financial speculation, it is basically sound.

D id Polonius, then — "Neither a borrower nor a lender be" — lay down the Golden Rule? Not quite for as is shown by the US, success depends not just on restraint, but on balance. If high taxes are balanced by cheap credit, (a vote of thanks to Alan Greenspan), you can hope for investment-led growth. But where central bankers remain wedded to sado-monetarism, a fiscal squeeze means recession.

The plenum seems to have dropped in the Bundesbank, though dreadfully late in the day; but there has not yet been any sign of "Greenspan thinking" in the European Monetary Institute. That could mean Euro-sclerosis, in good earnest.

So are Rubin's fears of Euro-drag justified? Very possibly; but he was not the right man to voice them. The warning should have come not from the Treasury Secretary to other finance ministers, but from Alan Greenspan to his smug counterparts at Jackson Hole.

CMG

Continuing substantial growth

	1996	1995	Increase
Turnover	£116.6m	£94.6m	23%
Operating profit	£11.2m	£8.6m	30%
Profit before tax	£11.3m	£8.6m	31%
Profit after tax	£7.1m	£5.3m	34%
Earnings per share	11.4p	8.9p	28%
Interim dividend	2.0p	1.6p*	25%

(payable on 20 November 1996 to all shareholders on the share register on 15 October 1996. Ex dividend date is 7 October.)

- Pre-tax profits up 31% to £11.3 million
- 23% growth in Group turnover virtually all organic
- Group operating margin up from 9.1% to 9.6%
- Netherlands strong growth continues: turnover up 32% to £79.8 million
- UK improvement gathers pace: profits up 78% to £1.7 million
- Average staff numbers 2880, up 26% on same period last year

On the outlook for the remainder of the year, CMG Chairman Cor Stutterheim said, "The Group performance since the end of June continues to be very satisfactory and the principal markets in which we operate remain strong. Having delivered good results in the first half of the year, we are confident that the second half, traditionally CMG's stronger half, will enable us to deliver very good results for the full year. We remain well placed to benefit from the strong growth anticipated for our industry in the years ahead."

CMG plc is a leading European Information Technology services group. Established in 1964, CMG now operates in more than 30 countries from its bases in the UK, The Netherlands and Germany. The Group is listed on the London and Amsterdam Stock Exchanges.

CMG supplies systems development, management consultancy and advanced technology services in the finance, transport, trade & industry, energy, telecommunications and public sectors. The Group also provides managed information processing services, including payroll and personnel.

Copies of the full Interim Report, which will be sent to shareholders week commencing 23 September, may be obtained from Michael Harrington, Group Communications, CMG plc, London NW1 2AB.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

UNIT TRUST FUND LIST																								
Sec	Pub	+/- %	YTD	Sec	Pub	+/- %	YTD	Sec	Pub	+/- %	YTD	Sec	Pub	+/- %	YTD									
SB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD	0121 589 7603	-	-1.0	1.14	CASIOVENE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD	0171 606 0708	-	-1.30	1.20	CASIOVENE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD	0171 606 0708	-	-0.05	2.23	FRAMINGHAM UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 330 0600	Dealing 0171 557511							
Global Amer	124.50	237.50	+ 1.30	0.14	Capital Portfolio	0171 75	109.63	+ 0.05	0.05	American Growth	085 56	85.73	+ 0.05	0.25	Euro Star Cos.	195.70	208.00	+ 0.05	0.07	Gift & Food	99.15	115.10	+ 0.16	5.76
Global Equity	100.40	304.00	+ 0.10	0.25	American Portfolio	124.45	100.63	+ 0.05	0.05	America Fund	085 56	85.73	+ 0.05	0.25	Metro Frost	102.36	114.10	+ 0.16	1.39	Gift Acc	101.10	110.70	+ 0.16	1.39
Global Equi	123.20	330.10	+ 0.10	0.25	American Portfolio	117.50	101.50	+ 0.05	0.05	America Fund	103.55	124.40	+ 0.05	0.47	North Growth	101.20	110.70	+ 0.16	1.39	Gift Acc	101.10	110.70	+ 0.16	1.39
Global Equi	123.20	330.10	+ 0.10	0.25	American Portfolio	117.50	101.50	+ 0.05	0.05	America Fund	103.55	124.40	+ 0.05	0.47	North Growth	101.20	110.70	+ 0.16	1.39	Gift Acc	101.10	110.70	+ 0.16	1.39
Global Japan	149.60	173.50	+ 0.10	0.10	American Portfolio	117.50	101.50	+ 0.05	0.05	America Fund	103.55	124.40	+ 0.05	0.47	North Growth	101.20	110.70	+ 0.16	1.39	Gift Acc	101.10	110.70	+ 0.16	1.39
Global Japan	149.60	173.50	+ 0.10	0.10	American Portfolio	117.50	101.50	+ 0.05	0.05	America Fund	103.55	124.40	+ 0.05	0.47	North Growth	101.20	110.70	+ 0.16	1.39	Gift Acc	101.10	110.70	+ 0.16	1.39
ADIA EQUITY 5 LAW UNIT TST MGRS	0121 653 2217	-	-0.05	2.55	CENT D FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG	0171 588 1815	-	-0.05	4.75	AMERICAN UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 606 0708	Dealing 0171 557511	-	-0.05	0.05	Gift Acc	99.15	115.10	+ 0.16	5.76				
Central Acc	860.50	224.00	+ 0.30	2.55	Cent Fin Inc	174.94	785.65	+ 1.32	4.75	AMERICAN UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 606 0708	Dealing 0171 557511	-	-0.05	0.05	Gift Acc	99.15	115.10	+ 0.16	5.76				
U.S. Growth	455.00	442.00	- 0.05	2.71	Cent Fin Inc	175.68	155.62	+ 1.77	9.95	AMERICAN UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 606 0708	Dealing 0171 557511	-	-0.05	0.05	Gift Acc	99.15	115.10	+ 0.16	5.76				
Higher Acc	399.40	480.00	+ 0.70	2.71	Cent Fin Inc	175.68	155.62	+ 1.77	9.95	AMERICAN UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 606 0708	Dealing 0171 557511	-	-0.05	0.05	Gift Acc	99.15	115.10	+ 0.16	5.76				
Higher Fin Acc	412.00	449.76	+ 0.10	2.20	Cent Fin Inc	175.68	155.62	+ 1.77	9.95	AMERICAN UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 606 0708	Dealing 0171 557511	-	-0.05	0.05	Gift Acc	99.15	115.10	+ 0.16	5.76				
Higher Fin Acc	212.10	224.00	+ 0.05	0.50	Cent Fin Inc	175.68	155.62	+ 1.77	9.95	AMERICAN UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 606 0708	Dealing 0171 557511	-	-0.05	0.05	Gift Acc	99.15	115.10	+ 0.16	5.76				
Higher Fin Acc	212.10	224.00	+ 0.05	0.50	Cent Fin Inc	175.68	155.62	+ 1.77	9.95	AMERICAN UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 606 0708	Dealing 0171 557511	-	-0.05	0.05	Gift Acc	99.15	115.10	+ 0.16	5.76				
Higher Fin Acc	212.10	224.00	+ 0.05	0.50	Cent Fin Inc	175.68	155.62	+ 1.77	9.95	AMERICAN UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 606 0708	Dealing 0171 557511	-	-0.05	0.05	Gift Acc	99.15	115.10	+ 0.16	5.76				
Higher Fin Acc	212.10	224.00	+ 0.05	0.50	Cent Fin Inc	175.68	155.62	+ 1.77	9.95	AMERICAN UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 606 0708	Dealing 0171 557511	-	-0.05	0.05	Gift Acc	99.15	115.10	+ 0.16	5.76				
Higher Fin Acc	212.10	224.00	+ 0.05	0.50	Cent Fin Inc	175.68	155.62	+ 1.77	9.95	AMERICAN UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 606 0708	Dealing 0171 557511	-	-0.05	0.05	Gift Acc	99.15	115.10	+ 0.16	5.76				
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Higher Fin Acc	212.10	224.00	+ 0.05	0.50	Cent Fin Inc	175.68	155.62	+ 1.77	9.95	AMERICAN UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 606 0708	Dealing 0171 557511	-	-0.05	0.05	Gift Acc	99.15	115.10	+ 0.16	5.76				
Higher Fin Acc	212.10	224.00	+ 0.05	0.50	Cent Fin Inc	175.68	155.62	+ 1.77	9.95	AMERICAN UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 606 0708	Dealing 0171 557511	-	-0.05	0.05	Gift Acc	99.15	115.10	+ 0.16	5.76				
Higher Fin Acc	212.10	224.00	+ 0.05	0.50	Cent Fin Inc	175.68	155.62	+ 1.77	9.95	AMERICAN UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 606 0708	Dealing 0171 557511	-	-0.05	0.05	Gift Acc	99.15	115.10	+ 0.16	5.76				
Higher Fin Acc	212.10	224.00	+ 0.05	0.50	Cent Fin Inc	175.68	155.62	+ 1.77	9.95	AMERICAN UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 606 0708	Dealing 0171 557511	-	-0.05	0.05	Gift Acc	99.15	115.10	+ 0.16	5.76				
Higher Fin Acc	212.10	224.00	+ 0.05	0.50	Cent Fin Inc	175.68	155.62	+ 1.77	9.95	AMERICAN UNIT TRUST LTD	0171 606 0708	Dealing 0171												

Modest losses at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996 High/Low Close	Price Yield PE	1996 High/Low Close	Price Yield PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES			
126 219 Allied Domecq 471 1 41 175		61 420 Glaxo 615 1 28 175	
620 361 British Beer 449 1 36 164		171 286 British Gas 189 1 28 111	
121 134 British Steel 729 1 55 264		172 297 Cadbury 189 1 30 166	
491 411 Grand Met 465 1 39 258		173 298 Cadbury B 174 1 23 143	
215 216 National Grid 145 1 42 145		174 299 National Grid 145 1 23 143	
80 324 Marks & Spencer 362 1 31 175		175 300 National Grid 145 1 23 143	
111 111 Merton Dist 162 1 17 175		176 301 National Grid 145 1 23 143	
AV 112 Midland Bank 1055 1 12 12		177 302 National Grid 145 1 23 143	

BANKS

1996 High/Low Close	Price Yield PE	1996 High/Low Close	Price Yield PE
BANKS			
371 243 ABN Amro 470 1 20 123		181 200 Barings 165 1 28 111	
122 202 Barclays 616 1 36 164		182 201 Caltex 189 1 28 111	
158 285 Nat West 362 1 31 175		183 202 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
124 241 City Assets 367 1 31 175		184 203 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
125 227 Royal Bank 349 1 31 175		185 204 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
126 242 Royal Bank 349 1 31 175		186 205 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
127 227 Royal Bank 349 1 31 175		187 206 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
128 242 Royal Bank 349 1 31 175		188 207 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
129 227 Royal Bank 349 1 31 175		189 208 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
195 565 Lloyds TSB 125 1 28 111		190 209 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
120 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		191 210 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
121 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		192 211 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
122 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		193 212 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
123 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		194 213 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
124 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		195 214 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
125 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		196 215 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
126 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		197 216 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
127 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		198 217 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
128 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		199 218 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
129 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		200 219 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
130 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		201 220 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
131 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		202 221 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
132 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		203 222 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
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138 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		209 228 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
139 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		210 229 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
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162 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		233 252 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
163 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		234 253 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
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168 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		239 258 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
169 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		240 259 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
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172 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		243 262 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
173 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		244 263 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
174 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		245 264 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
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176 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		247 266 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
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178 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		249 268 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
179 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		250 269 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
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181 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		252 271 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
182 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		253 272 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
183 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		254 273 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
184 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		255 274 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
185 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		256 275 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
186 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		257 276 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
187 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		258 277 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
188 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		259 278 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
189 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		260 279 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
190 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		261 280 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
191 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		262 281 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
192 227 National Grid 145 1 23 143		263 282 Cheltenham 175 1 28 111	
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Why shock-jock radio fails to find British listeners

Exporting the vulgar touch

There's a logical principle — Occam's Razor — which says that the simplest solution is usually the right one. So it's easy to answer two sour questions posed in last week's *Broadcast* magazine by someone back in Britain after 15 years in American radio.

Why, if there are 50 stations in New York City, does London have room for only 20? Also why is British radio so dull?

The first answer is easy, if in two parts. New York has more stations because it does not lie 30 miles from France, Belgium and Holland. And its radio stations do not aim for national coverage. Thirty miles into the sticks and they're gone. In Britain, the national networks have a commitment to universal coverage. London frequencies cannot be re-used in Oxford or Dover.

The second is no problem, either. Anybody else's radio is dull. Switch on the dial anywhere away from home and be astonished at the wooden jokes, the dreary music, the graceless presenters and the parochial news that other audiences lap up. It's one of the reliable pleasures of travel.

Radio, in particular, is a matter of habit. To feel included, you have to know the people — who's new and who's just been sacked; the running gags, the story behind the news. Otherwise, you feel left out, way out.

Perhaps the returned traveller just does not know where to tune. For controversy, he should try *The Archers*. (I must declare a lack of interest. Such is my aversion to this programme's phonier folksiness that my hand switches it off before that terrible tune reaches the third bounce.) But I know that other people care deeply and that the issue raised about the supposedly feminist PC *Archers* goes straight to the heart of the national malaise. Is rural England now a land of unwed mothers, violent racists and aromatherapists? Or is it still populated by stalwart food-producing families who debate the merits of sheep dip at table?

But, the charge continues, the dullness of British radio comes from excessive regulation. That one is worth thinking about. Something is wrong. Latest audience research figures show that national listening is dropping steadily. The current weekly average — 20.3 hours — is about two hours a week less than in 1977, even though there has been an explosion in commercial radio. Never have there been so many and such varied stations to listen to.

The obvious answer is, just as it is with television, that the increase in choice simply fragments the available audience, which has

increasing options for its time. If a radio station irritates or bores, it is easier to swap to a cassette or to dial the Internet than to bother with another station.

Blaming the regulator just will not do. Beyond a doubt, the Radio Authority is censorious and tasteless. In 1994 it fined Kiss FM £10,000 because a caller to a programme gave a candid description of having sex with her dog. Last year it twice hit Talk Radio, the new national commercial talk network, for £5,000, for the verbal indiscretions of Caesar the Geezer. And it keeps off the air the kind of proselytising religion which, in America, makes heady listening even for the immune.

But the Radio Authority is just doing the job Parliament handed it. Strict regulation is popular, which is why shock-jock radio is agreed to have failed. Talk Radio draws only half the audience size of Classic and Virgin. Now committed to a more thoughtful approach, Talk is in the hands of its third owner in 17 months.

The manifest truth is that there is no Gordon Liddy or Russ Limbaugh held back by puritanical regulation from shouting their insult and invective into British air. The British ear does not welcome that kind of verbal brutality. Nor, more's the pity, the kind of protection for free speech that would allow it.

American shock radio is the product of the First Amendment and anomie. The American Constitution prohibits the very kind of ban — on offensiveness, blasphemy and personal attack — that Parliament requires the Radio Authority to impose. Its vast polyglot and disparate society demands shouting to get any attention at all.

There are more subtle cultural differences. British humour does not specialise in the short and sharp gag. No one can argue that the slogan "New Labour, New Danger" packs anything like the punch of "It's the economy, stupid". On the other hand, British comedies do not fall back, as the brilliant *Larry Sanders Show* (an American satire seen three times a week on BBC2) does all too often, on characters telling each other to go and perform basic acts upon themselves.

Perhaps the furore over *The Archers* does prove that Britain is suffering from an excess of gentility. On the other hand, from across the Atlantic comes the comforting news that British editors are accused of coarsening New York's literary scene. Maybe all's well then. Maybe Britain has not lost the vulgar touch but is merely exporting it.



BRENDA MADDOX

Bitter twist to Jack's fame

DETERMINED to prove they are not the stodgy shirts we all believe them to be, those enlightened chaps at the Foreign Office recently decided to try to acquire the popular touch.

A young FO press officer was duly seconded to Lynne Franks PR, that with-it public relations agency, to hang loose and learn about life in the real world. The secondee, ever keen to immerse himself in common culture, even attended a function hosted by ITV for the Manchester United v Juventus match.

However, within minutes he demonstrated that the Foreign Office has a long way to go before it emerges from its fossil into 1996. "Who's that man?" he asked pointing at the celebrated comedian, TV personality and star of the John Smith's bitter advertisement.

Today *The Listener* can



Jack Dee: "Who he?"

ment, "Jack Dee. It's Jack Dee," said a fellow partygoer. "Never heard of him," said our man before stalking off in the direction of the volunteers.

• **TREVOR McDONALD**, the charismatic *ITV* newsreader, is evidently flavour of the month at the moment. As well as being announced as the host of the *ITV National Television Awards* next month, he has been invited to be the anchorman for *Setting the Pace*, the unveiling on September 23 of *ITV's* 1997 programme schedule for ad agencies and advertisers.

Today *The Listener* can

reveal why *ITV* are so keen to keep him sweet. McDonald is being headhunted by both *BSkyB* and the *BBC* as a news frontman and, to retain his services, *ITV* has promised to broaden his portfolio.

But whether this was the reason McDonald was chosen to conduct the recent "gushing" interview with John Major and not Michael Branson, its political editor, would be mere conjecture.

Cabinet decision

THE troops at *The Sunday Telegraph* are about to start smartening up their act. Management, tired of seeing a sea of denim every Saturday when staff turn up for work in casual gear, has decided to put its foot down.

A memo has been circulated, instructing all editorial staff that they must wear formal suits for Saturday shifts as normal — they might, for example, have to dash out and meet a Cabinet minister.

The news has not gone down well with staff and they imagine that their Editor, Dominic Lawson, may well share their disappointment. Mr Lawson has become notorious for sporting a snazzy collection of rugby shirts on Saturdays to office glee.

her dead body. The boy has now been named Sark.

• **TIMES** are certainly a-changing at Express newspapers, nowhere more so than in the political department. Staff, awaiting the execution of 35 redundancies and smarting from seeing the Sunday Express and Daily Express technically merged into a seven-day operation, now suspect the hand of the papers' owner and Labour peer Lord Hollick in its political coverage. Lord Hollick this week insisted that though he was a committed Labour supporter, he would not seek to influence the papers' politics. The editor would do that, he told *The Guardian*.

Still, die-hard readers of the *Tory Daily Express* must have choked when they saw its lead headline yesterday morning: "Labour is Good For You." It screamed above a splash story that read like a *Walworth Road* press release. Neither the left-wing *Daily Mirror* nor *The Guardian* found Tony Blair's speech to businessmen at London's Guildhall worthy of the splash.

"Our values are now supposed to be small 'c' conservative," said a confused staffer, "but capital 'L' Labour would be nearer the mark."

KATE MOSS is to be the new star of the Mercury One-2-One ads, due to start at the beginning of October.



Kate Moss: "real communication"

The mobile phone company has recruited Kate as its new face after a complicated history with a series of female celebrities, including Beatrice Dalle and Jaye Griffiths, formerly of *The Bill*.

The TV, press and poster campaign created by Bartle Bogle Hegarty hinges on the theme of "real communication" and "having a one to one" with someone according to a helpful insider. It forms part of a huge £30 million marketing drive for the brand this year and marks One-2-One's biggest ever campaign.

To judge from the budget, it sounds as though Kate could be an even more expensive telecom ad star than Bob Hoskins. But then, she is a lot prettier.

TALKING of Hoskins, his supposed successor, Billy Connolly, has emerged as the new frontman for

clients often wonder why it takes their agencies so long to make an ad. "I could do that in a day," they boast. But about 60 of them were taught the somewhat grisly reality of commercial-making at the annual Creative Circle role-reversal course last week.

Teams of marketing executives had four days to dream up strategies and creative executions and then film 12 commercials, each lasting for 30 seconds, which were judged by a panel of agency experts.

The briefs, gleefully concocted by the mischievous adfolk, embraced promoting the benefits of bananas, allaying consumers' fears about plastic surgery and heralding the triumphant return of that most unfashionable of white goods, the Teasmade.

After the event, several ashen-faced clients were observed muttering darkly about how they wished they'd kept their mouths shut.

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Science – or fiction?

Television shows about the supernatural are under attack, reports Maggie Brown

The hypnotist Paul McKenna and his team of producers are currently scouring the globe for the strange and perhaps true phenomena which make *The Paranormal World Of Paul McKenna* an ITV hit.

But the seven-part series scheduled for next year is being assembled in an ugly atmosphere. In the past few weeks the scientific establishment has been lining up to debunk the growing public appetite for what it calls manipulative programming, such as *Strange But True*, with Michael Aspel, *Out Of This World* and *Secrets Of The Paranormal*, which are tapping into the same credulous "need to believe" vein as *The X Files*.

Television is under attack for elevating the need to entertain over the scientific necessity to carry out stringent tests. The suggestion is that if properly controlled experiments were conducted, most phenomena would crumble.

Leading the attack is the formidable Professor Richard Dawkins, of the Public Understanding of Science group at Oxford University, who says that "the Universe is quite odd enough to need no help from pseudoscientific charlatans". His point, and it is a good one, is that "paranormal claims must be treated with scientific scepticism".

He mocks an incident in a recent BBC1 *Out Of This World* episode when Carol Vorderman spent a night alone in a haunted hotel and felt "pretty spooky in one room, that was abnormally cold". He says that mind readers should be kept apart in sealed rooms when being tested and the soles of their shoes checked for radio transmitters.

The director-general of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Dr Richard Pike, wrote to *The Times* this month on behalf of his members, pleading for television to adopt a more scientific approach.

McKenna's producer Michael Latham, a former editor of *Tomorrow's World*, has decided, for his protection, to record on video the background to the experiments that will be shown in edited snippets. He defines these as happenings which fall outside normal experience, and scientifically inexplicable events. Telepathy, healing, reincarnation, ghosts, poltergeists, the ability to move objects without touching them – all these events define this odd, but always fascinating territory, which television has blundered into.

But Latham knows he has to tread a thin line. He has to filter out the confidence-tricksters while preserving the element of mystery which makes these programmes top-rated. More than 40 per cent of viewers watched last Friday's *Strange But True* with Michael Aspel, for example.

The new McKenna series will show, Latham says, "remarkable scenes of healing" when people in their twenties (the young apparently heal the fastest) with grotesquely swollen, arthritic knees rise and walk. Then there is a "Uri Geller mark 2" – a Frenchman who can bend metal bars of aerospace steel even when



The X Files, with Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny, happily feeds viewers' obsession with the paranormal

they are placed within glass tubes, by concentrating like crazy. Last, but not least, is a group of people called remote viewers.

Remote viewers? These Americans are set the challenge of meeting the presenter on a certain day and at a certain time, but at no agreed place. The rendezvous has been achieved, to general astonishment, and captured on film. The "remote viewer" drew a picture of where to meet.

All these are the sort of incidents which are the bread and butter of the glut of programmes about the paranormal that show no sign of fading from the schedules.

Paul Corley, the controller of factual programmes at the ITV Network Centre, responds to the critics, which also include some worried television executives, by saying that these programmes are popular, and that scientists are being a bit po-faced.

Recent discoveries, such as the potential proof of life on Mars, underscored the widespread belief that scientists do not know everything, and that

much of the mystery of life, including religious belief, is unexplained and beyond the traditional disciplines of rational science, he says.

Richard Simons, who has risen to become Controller of Programmes at the ITV company Meridian after successfully spotting the paranormal boom, echoes this point. There are few factual programmes which work as popular ratings-pullers across the generations, certainly no straightforward science programmes.

And he completely repudiates the idea that this genre exploits gullible people.

"Complete rubbish," says Simons, but is attracted to programme ideas which chime into the soul-searching created by the new millennium. There is also a huge growth in published research on the paranormal.

Giles Oakley, head of BBC community programmes – which made a series of programmes called *Secrets Of*

The Paranormal in which a faith healer described how he was really a 2,000-year-old Egyptian – says he has been shaken by the vitriol his series provoked.

Jana Bennett, head of BBC science programmes, which paired Gillian Anderson of *The X Files* with *Future Fantastic*, has said it is a mistake to debunk people's propensity to believe.

Yet even sympathetic scientists are alienated by what is being done on television. Dr Richard Wiseman, of the University of Hertfordshire in Hatfield, runs a unit on the paranormal. He is involved in most of the programmes in which a consultant in most of the paranormal programmes. He was the resident sceptic on *Out Of This World* and showed that the apparent haunting of a woman by a 16th-century farmer (who left messages on the computer in Old English) was a hoax. He says that Professor Dawkins has a point: "I'm not as damning as him. But some of

these programmes are full of the most god-awful science. The fact is these shows know the big viewing figures come from saying this is genuine."

"I've found that programme-makers are receptive of proper controls, if they are sold properly. Equally, scientists don't understand how to get their message across to eight million viewers."

Professor Bob Morris, who occupies the Koestler Chair of Parapsychology at Edinburgh University, is even more dismissive. "I started watching these programmes and then stopped. We try to do respectable scientific research. These are just driven by ratings and entertainment."

What the current debate shows is that the cultural divide between scientists and arts-based generalist culture remains as deep as when C.P. Snow pinned it down in the Fifties.

And that while millions tune in to these programmes there is no sign of a new era of popular science series, fronted by modern David Bellamy and David Attenborough-style communicators, anywhere on the horizon. Whose fault is that?

vinced. Yet newspapers cannot survive unless they constantly renew their franchise with the younger generation. Newspaper sales have been declining since the war, but I doubt that any generation of editors this century has been under quite such pressure to reverse that trend and to push up sales.

That competition is made all the fiercer by the self-evident fact that the younger generation are used to getting their news from radio and television. They have been reared on visual images, in the age of the soundbite and of jazzy designed magazines. Unless editors anticipate and react to the trends of the times, newspapers can quickly seem old-fashioned and boring.

Few of the critics, moreover, acknowledge that newspaper readers die. If one in 20 of its readers dies every year, *The Daily Telegraph* needs 50,000 new buyers simply to stand still. All editors want young readers to feel their newspapers speak to them as well as to the oldies. That is why Oasis featured so prominently on the front pages last week.

Sex raises its ugly headline in top men's magazines

The serious men's glossies are following their rivals in a rush to titillate the reader, says Joe Joseph

Editors of men's magazines seem to think that they can put any old beautiful woman on their cover, and the entire male population will automatically drool, which is simply not true. Men are more complicated and sensitive than that. Men will only drool if the woman also has other appealing qualities, such as a warm nature, healthy teeth, and a winning smile. Breasts like torpedoes always help.

But isn't this what we expect from *Playboy* and *Penthouse*, rather than from the posher men's mags like *GQ* and *Esquire* which are supposed to be helping us shape lead a fuller life by offering the latest on literature, restaurants, clothes, health and finance?

Frankly, if it's nipples you're after, shouldn't you just be reaching a little higher up the shelves? I mean, if you're such a wimp of a man that you are too embarrassed to take a copy of *Penthouse* from the magazine shelf to the checkout, then won't all those other articles they publish in *Esquire* and *GQ* about men who are in control of their lives be way beyond your emotional reach?

October's issues of the top men's titles have enough breasts on the covers to keep Jack Nicholson busy for a month. *GQ*'s cover girl is Gossard bra model Sophie Anderton, who, forsaking the legendary Wonderbra, poses in a much sexier, more provocative, nipple-bearing, diaphanous bra. This is a teaser for several pages inside on which Sophie – who appeared on billboards around Britain in June with the ad line "Who says a woman can't get pleasure from something soft?" – is stark naked.

Nineties Man hasn't got

time for magazine foreplay: he likes to flick through quickly and then doze off. So the argument goes. He still likes to read about sex and to stare at Michelle's legs and Sophie's chest, but he likes to swot up on Louis de Bernières a little first.

The publishers of these men's magazines say they are appealing to all men's instincts, including their sexual appetite. But if you are going to move nipples out of *Mayfair* and *Men Only* because male readers like staring at nipples, it seems only sensible to insert a few nipples into *The Economist*, *Punch* and *Angling Weekly*. And can you imagine how many more people on the 18th floor might subscribe to *Forbes* or *Business Week* if they carried a Gillian Anderson centrefold each week?

Esquire, edited by the accomplished Rosie Boycott, has always boasted that it has not joined its rivals in rushing to ape the success of *Loaded*. And it is true that it often has cover photos of big Hollywood names, such as Robert De Niro and Nick Cage. But for October it is offering Ulrika Jonsson, or rather "Ulrika goes on top". Again, once through the magazine's front door the reader trips over reams of writing on the arts, sport, travel, the return of chain gangs in Alabama, even the Bombay underworld.

But wait: there are also confessions of a voyeur and an interview with Kimberly Hefner, Hugh's wife, with some underwater boob shots. *FM* – or *For Him Magazine* –



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Oasis split shock: what's the story, morning broadsheets?

Three editors decided that Tony Blair's plan to sever the link between Labour and the unions was the main story of the day, with *The Independent* opting for the Gulf. All, however, made Oasis their second story.

The Daily Telegraph, deputy editor Sarah Sands had no difficulty in justifying the Oasis decision. The story had been treated in a spirit of nonplussed, slightly exasperated mock-seriousness. She said, Yes, Oasis was just a pop group and not really a proper story but most readers – and their children – had heard of them and would want to know what all the fuss was about. That spirit of mock-seriousness extended to an editorial in which the *Telegraph* brooded on Britpop, its hold on the hearts of the British people and the roles of Liam and Noel as its ambassadors.

Nor did Alan Rusbridger,

PAPER ROUND
Brian MacArthur

Editor of *The Guardian* which also devoted most of page three and an editorial to the story. "You wouldn't be asking that question if you were under the age of 25," he said, although he admitted that some of his older executives had been puzzled by the display given to the story. When, as *The Guardian* had reported, 5 per cent of the British population had applied for tickets to the Oasis concert at Knebworth, they were obviously newsworthy. The decision was easy for the tabloids. The split made three pages in the *Daily Mirror* and five in the *Daily*

Pop has got to have its bad boys."

One of the best articles on the reasons for all the fuss was written by Decca Aitkenhead in the *Independent on Sunday*, who argued that Oasis were the present generation could call their own:

"If you are under 30, you face the following problems. 1. Your parents are insufferably smug about the brilliance of their youth. They had, as they will remind you, John Lennon, Mick Jagger and Jimi Hendrix. 2. To date, your generation has come up with Simon Le Bon, Gina G and the Smurfs. 3. Your parents doubt that you will still be singing along to Stock, Aitken and Waterman songs in 20 years' time. 4. You suspect they're right."

So the editors defend their decisions convincingly, although some older readers probably remain uncon-



■ RADIO
Fifty years of crisis and self-doubt, yet Radio 3 survives and could prosper



■ OPERA
If it's Friday it must be the latest instalment in Stockhausen's epic opera cycle

THE TIMES ARTS



■ DANCE
Northern Ballet Theatre takes a bite out of *Dracula*, but the result is unappetising



■ TOMORROW
Demi Moore goes starkers, but is the film any good? Read Geoff Brown on *Striptease*

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

Sshh! Someone might hear us

High ideals, low ratings: Radio 3's problems have not changed much in 50 years, says Richard Morrison

Who would begrudge Radio 3 its 50th birthday bash? Well, for a start there are all those BBC TV executives. They can't fathom why money is spent on an audience which is sometimes so sparse that it can be quantified only by physicists trained to observe very small particles. Even Lord Reith once said that the old Third Programme was "a waste of a precious wavelength". And he was one of the BBC's good guys.

Then there are the politicians and journalists who whine loudly, predictably and disingenuously about public money being spent on anything vaguely highbrow. And, in comic contrast, there is the platoon of doctosents who think that Radio 3 isn't half as highbrow as it should be, and certainly not a patch on the intellectual glories that came marching bracingly across the ether in some dimly remembered golden age, generally located in the late 1940s.

True, this plateau is on the small side. But it has been ferociously trained by Brigadier Bamber Gascoigne and Corporal Gerald Kaufman to lob epistolary grenades at *The Times* whenever a Radio 3 Controller dares to shift his programme round a bit.

Who else? Well, millions of classical music fans express their feelings about Radio 3 by tuning to Classic FM. So I guess that they won't be draping the bunting round the wireless on September 29. And others will be looking at the celebrations planned for the day, noting a programme in which Peter Hall, Antonia Fraser, George Steiner and Brian Sewell recall the impact of the Third Programme on their lives and careers, and making plans to go deep-sea diving that weekend.

Finally, there are all those disenchanted former Radio 3 Control-

lers, producers and announcers whose mutual hatred is exceeded only by their contempt for their successors. And if you think that this is a gross slur on eminent broadcasters, you haven't read Humphrey Carpenter's new history of Radio 3, *The Envoy of the World* (reviewed in *The Times* tomorrow). No wonder that the present Controller, Nicholas Kenyon, quipped to the press last week:

While Radio 3 survives, an unfashionable idealism also survives

"I have done my best to die before this book is published."

So will anybody be celebrating Radio 3's birthday — apart from Sir Peter, Lady Antonia, old Uncle George Steiner and all? And, more importantly, should they? I don't know the answer to the first question. But to the second I give a resounding yes, and I surprise even myself by typing that word.

For years I found the tone of Radio 3 hopelessly complacent, snug and condescending: a snobby club with an upmarket juke-box. Now its tone is fine, but it is having to engage in a desperate struggle with Classic FM for the attention of middle-brow music-lovers that it should have captured in the 45 years when it had no competition.

For failing to go even halfway towards meeting the needs of that huge potential audience, it has to go the extra mile now. Yet if Radio 3's history is a tale of

mishaps, it is also a story of noble intentions. And I shall celebrate on September 29 because, while Radio 3 survives, a particular strain of unfashionable idealism also survives. It is the idealism which holds that the arts should have a place at the centre of any civilised society, and that only broadcasting can achieve this.

That idealism was strong when we were "building the peace" after 1945. What is horrifying is how quickly it waned. Far from heralding a golden age, the Third Programme was in crisis a year after it began. Doubts that were to return again and again were already being aired. "Too many items smell of the dust of a don's study," the *Daily Express* said in 1947, when the Third's audience was down to two listeners in every thousand.

Bizarre tricks were soon being tried to lure people to the Third.

Benny Hill was engaged for a comedy programme. Dance bands rubbed shoulders with Bertrand Russell. Marilyn Monroe was approached to play the title role in *Lysistrata* (sadly she declined).

And the whole debate about whether radio had a future as a "serious medium" or simply as aural wallpaper — a question which is now seen as central to the Radio 3 v Classic FM battle — was already simmering in the 1960s.

Benjamin Britten called the loudspeaker "the enemy of music". But William Mann, *The Times* music critic, declared officially that Mozart and Haydn would not turn in their graves if their music was used to accompany household chores.

Of course there were famous early triumphs: a five-hour production of *Shaw's Man and Superman* that "riveted" listeners to their chairs; Dylan Thomas, drunk yet majestically articulate, staggering from the George into Broadcasting House to record some priceless

script, and then posthumously giving the Third Programme its greatest night, *Under Milk Wood*; premieres by Beckett, Pinter, young Stoppard. And there was surely a real buzz in the Sixties, when William Glock used the network to revolutionise British musical life, and the poetry producer George MacBeth gave airtime to Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg.

But what is depressing about the Third's history is how rarely it did generate that buzz. Whenever the network is threatened, the great and the good have rallied round, as if venerating a totem pole. That was

as true in 1957, when Eliot, Vaughan Williams and Olivier stormed into Broadcasting House to complain about cuts, as it is today. But do they tune to its programmes? In 1974 Radio 3's Controller discovered that even his own staff didn't listen to Radio 3.

If it didn't exist, would we invent it today? Probably not. We wouldn't have the nerve or the vision. Yet the need for a sane, cultured, horizon-widening antidote to the ephemeral jabber of our cluttered airwaves has never been greater. Radio 3 is actually better placed to fulfil that role now than ever before. Its

presenters sound like cheerful enthusiasts, not supercilious undertakers. It has largely rid itself of the generation of producers who recycled their PhD theses as "programme ideas". And it does now believe in publicising its choicest morsels, rather than concealing them lest they attract what someone once called "the wrong sort of audience".

But to prosper, Radio 3 must first survive — and the three most important things needed for survival in the modern BBC are ratings, ratings and ratings. Radio 3's ratings won't go up unless all those

who admire it in theory actually listen to it in practice. Just telling people that it is the "envy of the world" isn't enough. And anyway, that useful tag is now decades old.

On September 29 Radio 3 devotes the day to its 50th anniversary celebration. Hosted by Humphrey Carpenter the day includes live concerts, discussions, archive recordings, premieres, and the classic 1957 recording of Beckett's *All That Fall*.

Other anniversary events include a new radio version (Oct 20) of *Shaw's Man and Superman*, directed by Sir Peter Hall and starring Ralph Fiennes, Dame Judi Dench and Juliet Stevenson.

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second voucher will be printed. A voucher and tokens will also appear in The Sunday Times this week.

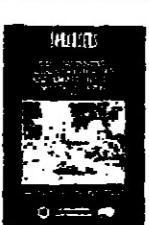
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CHANGING TIMES

Stockhausen's alien craft

I imagine that beings from another planet have picked up a television broadcast of a play from Earth. The signal is badly corrupted: not many of the characters can be made out, almost none of the text, and whole scenes have been lost. Still, the beings decide to put on their own performance of what they can piece together. Their drama, like the original, lasts for three hours, but the only characters are a man in black, a woman in white with flowers, and a king, all moving through elongated versions of the scenes that could be partly deciphered: Ghastly Apparition, First Self-Comming and so on.

This is approximately the impression made by Stockhausen's *Freitag*, the fifth opera to be completed of his *Licht* cycle, which had its first performance last week. Each of the *Licht* operas so far has had less plot than the last, and *Freitag's* main action is pared to a few moments. Friday is the day of temptation, and the day also of Eve and Lucifer.

Eve is persuaded by Ludon, an emanation of Lucifer, to bear a child by his son Kaino. Meanwhile, the theme of miscegenation is played out on another plane by 12 couples (human, animal and inanimate) represented by dancers, and there are troops of children who, although doubtfully fixed to the storyline, contribute liveliness and charm.

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The sense of something from outer space is intensified by the continuous electronic music on tape, and in particular by that component of it which was presented in the Amsterdam planetarium last year as *Weltraum*: a two-and-a-half-hour meditation on a few notes, most prominently a high E flat. Recorded passages of musical love-talk, featuring the voices of the composer and Kathinka Pasveer, are added to this when the couples appear, and the electronic



Dancers add to the sung message of Stockhausen's *Freitag*

musically reflected in twinned melodies that often move in contrary motion.

The melodies avoid, often by slowness, any conventional expressive effect: such things as the love scene or Eve's aria of repentance are big musical moments but psychologically null. This is Stockhausen's way. Each of his operas is an instruction, not in how to feel, but to listen: hence the importance of instrumentalists as stage performers and the motif — emphasised here by the children — of education.

In Leipzig the joy of the children was infectious, and a great lesson in how the very young can relish the challenge of new music. Less happy, though, was the division of the cast into white (a blonde-wigged Eve, with pale children in pastel blue and black (Ludon, Kaino and more children all made up as stage Africans), with a strongly implied connection to the cycle's central metaphor of light and darkness. It is not enough here to be naive.

The vocal soloists all commanded the necessary statuesque manner and effortless delivery. Angela Tunstall was the angelically bright Eve, and Nicholas (shepherd) Ludon. There was also excellent work from Uwe Want (director), Johannes Conen (designer) and Johannes Böng (choreographer).

PAUL GRIFFITHS

OPERA

Freitag aus Licht

Leipzig Opera

music is also the warm, fluid medium which supports the soloists on stage: three singers in the named roles, plus flautist (Pasveer again) and bassoonist (Suzanne Stephens) as shadows of Eve.

This almost amniotic bathing of electronic music, the slow motion and the presence of children, all link the new opera with *Montag*, the segment of *Licht* that was principally Eve's and concerned with birth. But *Freitag* is distinguished by its pairings, and by how those pairings are

Undead not at all well

DANCE

Dracula

Alhambra, Bradford

of black-and-white weepies. Yet again, the designer Lez Brotherton proves the most adept of the creative team (he has been responsible for several NBT productions). Dracula's dark, musty castle, with its subversive red lanterns, is wonderfully evocative and quite glamorous in its way.

The performers of Northern Ballet Theatre are fine actors (which is to Gable's credit), but one would like to see them dance, too. Denis Malinikine was tall and impressive as the opening night Dracula, although shamefully underused. Between whooshing around in his red cape and stalking after his prey, Malinikine didn't have much scope to take command of the ballet.

Omar Gordon as Harker suffered the most from underdeveloped characterisation, but Jayne Regan (Mina Harker) did get to grow as the night wore on. Charlotte Broom was lovely as Lucy, and Jeremy Kerridge scarily believable as the mental patient, Mr Renfield.

DEBRA CRANE

Laughter

THEATRE

Clue

September 20-21

of two young men, Michael Caine and Ray Winstone, as a quibbling, bickering, Brian Ferguson, and tickets £15, are on sale. To buy,

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■ VISUAL ART

Facelift: the National Portrait Gallery takes the wraps off its revitalised new rooms



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Johnny Mathis cruises and croons through a night of exactly what you might expect



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■ OFFER 2

... or half-price tickets for Covent Garden's *La Bohème* see Theatre Club panel for details



VISUAL ART: Isabel Carlisle reports how an architect's designs have transformed the third floor of the National Portrait Gallery

Victorians cast in a better light

Letting architects loose in art galleries is not always a good idea. The danger is that creating a new interior actually makes it more difficult to look at the art.

The National Portrait Gallery's third floor has been taken to pieces and reassembled by the architect Piers Gough over the last year and, far from being an intrusion, it is a huge success. What used to be a stuffy, dingy display of Victorian portraits has literally had the light let in on it. The windows of the original 1896 building have been uncovered and, for the first time in a long while, there is natural daylight in the galleries. Those forbidding Victorians look noticeably more benign, and their transformed rooms are such a pleasure to be in that I intend to strike up a permanent acquaintance.

The first thing that you notice on entering is not a painted portrait but a plaster cast of a large full-length statue by William Thedford of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in Anglo-Saxon dress. Look beyond that to the end wall of the entrance corridor and you see three shelves of plaster busts of Victorian worthies, painted black to look like bronze, including Tennyson, Palmerston and Parnell. Sculpture has at long last been brought out of the closet and given an equal prominence with painting.

The integration of sculpture with painting is even more evident in the long central corridor. There, white marble busts on specially made carved wooden brackets project about a foot from the wall on either side and, looking down the length of the corridor, create the vista of a sculpture gallery. It is only once you are standing in the space that you see the busts alternate with oil portraits.

Throughout, partitions from the 1970s have been cleared away to reveal the 19th-century interiors. Any space gained has been used to reduce crowding rather than to

hang more works. On the walls the shimmer of silk, in various combinations of shot colours, lightens all the rooms and bestows something of the atmosphere of a drawing room. It is particularly sumptuous in the "Turn of Century" room, where the walls are in iridescent shades of yellow, blue and green.

Standing in this room and looking back into "Late Victorian Arts" you notice another new and theatrical feature. Portraits are angled out from the walls on adjustable brackets in such a way that dialogues are set up between rooms and between portraits. So the decadent illustrator Aubrey Beardsley (painted by Jacques-Emile Blanche) gazes through the door at Gwen and Augustus John and past a whole wall of Sargent portraits, Henry James among them.

A room on the First World War and a massive group portrait of *Some Statesmen of the First War* by James Guthrie separate the earlier displays from the later (up to 1960). Beyond this is the 1930s extension given by Lord Duveen, and a gallery previously used for temporary exhibitions. This room holds the greatest and most delightful surprises. Double-sided glass "walls" break up the space and allow it to be hung thematically but, because the panels are transparent, themes such as art and politics link in unexpected ways: looking past the portrait of Churchill to Sickert you see the self-portrait of Dame Laura Knight painting a nude model.

Curving painted steel pedestals, one at the end of each glass wall, hold sculpted heads. Maurice Lambert's bronze head of Sir William Walton looks across to the aluminium cast of a bust of Dame Edith Sitwell: her poetry famously combined with Walton's music in *Façade*. There is a glass wall of five Bloomsbury portraits and, elsewhere, the bronze head and gesturing hands of Sir Thomas Beecham have been attached to a glass panel, appearing to float in space.

The original trigger for this new display was the need to upgrade lighting, fire prevention systems and electrical wiring. Money for this has come in the form of grants-in-aid from the Department of National Heritage. The cost of the more visible changes was met by the profits of a travelling exhibition called *Treasures of the National Portrait Gallery* that made five stops in Japan. This is the first material change to the galleries for which Charles Saumarez Smith, the director of the National Portrait Gallery, has been responsible. It will change our perceptions and make the gallery a far more accessible and enjoyable place to visit.

■ MYSTERIES

Richard Cork continues his daily series on the glories of the British Museum's magnificent *Mysteries of Ancient China* show



GROUP OF SEVEN SERVANT FIGURES

THIS delightful cluster of painted wooden figures was excavated in 1975 from a tomb at Fenghuangshan, Hubei province. They belonged to a group of 23 servants, discovered alongside horse-drawn carriages and ox-drawn carts. The lady buried there must have enjoyed considerable wealth. According to an inventory of the tomb goods, written on 74 wooden strips, the servants all performed clearly defined roles. The first in line is a male guard or supervisor, clasping a halberd with hands obscured by his long sleeves. Behind him is a female servant arrayed in a flowing orange outer garment, and the woman beyond her is a special confidante of the mistress. The smaller woman behind her had a more modest status. To judge by their axes, spades and hoes, the last trio worked on the lady's estate. The group reveals the descending order of rank within the social structure of the Han period, dating from the 2nd century BC.

● *Mysteries of Ancient China*, sponsored by The Times, is at the British Museum to Jan 5. Admission £5; bookings on 0171-420 0000

TOMORROW: A Lamp in the Form of a Tree



Piers Gough's glass "walls" break up the space and allow it to be hung thematically, linking art and politics in unexpected ways

Laughter lines

THE THEATRE CLUB

September 30. The play, about the shenanigans of two young men trying to defraud the Department of Social Security, is written by Michael Cooney and produced by his father, the famous Ray. It stars Bradley Walsh and Nick Wilton, together with long-standing Cooney stalwarts Brian Murphy, Frank Thornton, Jean Fergusson and Anita Graham. Top-priced tickets £18 (normally £22) for the 8pm performance. To book, telephone 0171-369 1735

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LONDON Royal Opera House Sept 23-24 (7.30pm)

● BUY TWO best orchestra stalls seats (normally £18 each) for the price of one for Puccini's wonderful *La Bohème*. The central role of Mimi will alternate between Amanda Roocroft and Leontine Vaduva, while Rodolfo will be sung by Luis Lima and Richard Leech. Tel 0171-304 4000 to book, quoting "STTC" and your membership number

WOLVERHAMPTON Grand Theatre Sept 24-26

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6.50 to £14.50) for the spoof comedy thriller, *Dracula*, starring Leslie Grantham as the infamous Count and Vicki Michelle as Lucy the Vampire. Tel 01902 29212

CLUB members are invited to meet members of the cast of *Cash on Delivery*, the latest highly polished vehicle from the Cooney farce production line, after the performance at the Whitehall Theatre on

NORTHERN Stage's adaptation of George Orwell's classic political allegory *Animal Farm* is a fast and physical piece of theatre. Buy two tickets for the price of one for performances at

STIRLING MacRoberts Arts Centre, Sept 24-25. Tickets normally £9. Tel 01786 461 081

CHELTENHAM Everyman Theatre, Oct 1. Tickets normally £7.50 to £13.50. Tel 01242 572573

COVENTRY Warwick Arts Centre, Oct 11-12. Tickets normally £12.50. Tel 0203 524524

TAUNTON Brewhouse Theatre, Oct 15. Tickets normally £7. Tel 01823 283244

MIDDLESBROUGH Little Theatre, Oct 22. Tickets normally £7. Tel 01642 815181

DUNDEE Dundee Rep, Nov 6. Tickets normally £7 to £8.75. Tel 01382 223530

DARTFORD The Orchard Sept 30-Oct 1

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £8.50 to £15.50) for Terry Johnson's award-winning farce *Dead Funny*. Tel 01322 220000

CARLISLE The Sands Centre Sept 27

● SAVE £3 on tickets (normally £13 to £15.50) for European Ballet's production of *Carmen*, set to Bizet's magnificent score. Tel 01228 25222

BRIGHTON Gardner Arts Centre Oct 5

● TICKETS £6 (normally £7 to £8.50) for Compass Theatre Company's production of Samuel Beckett's *Endgame* and Krapp's *Last Tape*. Tel 01273 688861

POPULAR MUSIC: Johnny Mathis, Totó La Momposina and Celina González, and Nervous

Misty in the Fifties

González, Cuba's countrified version of the exiled Celia Cruz.

After a stark solo set dominated by insistent motifs played on the coarse-toned *güiro flutes* and a battery of drums and percussion instruments, La Momposina came close to being upstaged in the second half. Gliding onto the stage for her guest spot, González stoked up an unashamedly melodramatic selection of Cuban son, that compelling offspring of Spanish romanticism set to an Afro pulse.

Though she cannot rival Cruz for sheer physical presence, her stark, declamatory voice does not lack for power. Mathis strutting across the stage and broadening his voice into a full-blown, Joe Manahan roar. *Manha de Carnaval*, gently sung in Portuguese, blossomed from wordless interplay with his faithful guitarist Gil Reigers.

Mathis's boyish reserve sets him apart from the glossy, fast-talking Vegas pack. A shame his diffidence extended to interrupting his performance, as ever, for a guest spot by a comedian.

FOR reasons which are all too familiar, Colombia has acquired a less than pristine image. So the Barbican's mini-festival, *Colores de Colombia*, came along at an opportune moment, putting music and dance in their rightful place.

When the singer Totó La Momposina appeared at the South Bank last summer she celebrated her African heritage in a joint concert with the Swahili vocalist, Remi Ogala. For Sunday's finale she switched her attention closer to home in what amounted to a summit meeting with Celina

enlivened by such lines as "I'm blinded by beauty, aesthetics is my middle name". The band augment the usual guitars, keyboards and drums with mandolins, pedal steel, clarinet and harp, energetic and laid-back in equal doses, authentic and unconvived.

Engagingly Nervous still amble on stage like a bunch of roadies rather than the stars of the show. But catch them quick; when they graduate to the big stadiums it won't sound quite the same.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

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THE TIMES
TYPE



CHOICE 1
ENO stages
Britten's opera,
*A Midsummer
Night's Dream*
VENUE: Tonight at
the Coliseum



CHOICE 2
Frank Finlay plays
the title role in
Ronald Harwood's
The Handyman
VENUE: In preview at
the Minerva, Chichester

THE ARTS

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18 1996



THEATRE 1
Simon Callow and
company revel in
a cheerful
updating of
Ben Jonson's
The Alchemist

THEATRE 2
... but a
musical delving
into the
spirit world is
only a medium
success in Salisbury

THEATRE: Ben Jonson's social satire set in the future; plus a musical benefit of hummable tunes

Broad, brash and farcical

Beneath the cast-list in most editions of Ben Jonson's *Alchemist* you find the words: "Scene, London". The programme for the production that Birmingham Rep is mounting in collaboration with the National Theatre adds: "time, the future". But if you think this means that Jonson's comen have become computer whiz-kids pulverising Martian businessmen via the pan-solar Internet -- as would



Delightfully grotesque: Simon Callow (Face), Josie Lawrence (Doll Common) and Tim Pigott-Smith (Subtle)

The Alchemist Birmingham Rep

probably be the case if the great satirist were writing today -- you must think again. It is a more ebulliently imaginative future to which Bill Alexander and his cast introduce us.

The streets of their London are full of people wearing black plastic, baggy Turkish-style carpets and medieval-looking leather. The house to which Simon Callow's Face and Tim Pigott-Smith's Subtle lure their marks suggests that tomorrow's estate agents will have their work cut out for them. The programme says that William Dudley designed those looming walls, iron doors and looping stairs; but the impression is that some mad blacksmith made scores of cogs, spanners, pipes, radiators, candlesticks and a few instruments of torture, and then squashed them into a sort of black brutal Gothic Gormenghast chic.

It is a fascinating sight and well enough suited to Jonson, who loved the extravagant and took delight in the grotesque. His people are not people as most of his contemporaries observed them, but caricatures, "humours": crazed Anabaptists trying to persuade themselves that forgery is lawful, a fat knight mentally gourmandising on the prospect of gold-mountains and gold-lakes, a dim clerk who believes himself to be the fairy queen's heir. Even so, previous productions of *The Alchemist* have demonstrated that such characters can be played with a certain finesse and the satire acquire a degree of social reality and moral edge. Alexander opt instead for the broad: the brash and, most of the time, the farcical.

Still, it is hard to complain too much when Callow is caught hilariously transmogrifying from a bare-chested

south London lager lout to a baton-flourishing Sandhurst blimp, and from there to the alchemists' troglodyte stoker, a Welsh chemist oddly garbed in shimmering black armour and, finally, an ingratianting Scots-butler. There are other qualities -- danger, maybe? -- that he might have brought to the role. But he performs with such relish and glee that you catch yourself wishing Jonson had provided him with even more opportunities to play games

with his hair, teeth and accent: Face as Falklands sheep-taunty, perhaps, or Face as scavenging yet.

As the less interesting trickster, Pigott-Smith alternates efficiently enough between gowned magus and hair-shirted ascetic. Josie Lawrence injects panache and even a little aggro into the role of their partner-in-crime, Doll Common, at one point using her thighs to put a headlock on Subtle. And Geoffrey Freshwater brings an eye-

whirling excitement to the role of Sir Epicure Mammon, who dreams of being fanned by eunuchs and wearing gloves of fish-skin "perfumed with gums of paradise". But before the production reaches the National next month, could someone ensure that the bald patch on his wig doesn't crinkle? That is an absurdity beyond even my powers to defend.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

duction also allows characters to hang around doing nothing. Just because they are being sung to, or watching from a nearby chair, doesn't mean they can't be made to look involved.

Mark McGann (Nick) runs through a repertoire of doleful attitudes, but the Californian actress and singer Summer Rognlie gives a thrilling performance, forthright and feisty, in the Maddle sections of her role.

In the show's best scene, at a charity party memorably disrupted by her presence, she gives a new meaning to the phrase "Drinks on the hostess."

JEREMY KINGSTON

A slightly vacant possession

Maddie Salisbury Playhouse

exerted a fascination over Jack Finney, author of the novel on which this British musical is based. He also wrote *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, still the classic parable of a state destroyed from within.

The resurrection of Maddie is used as an opportunity to create irritated confusions, although now and then a deeper and infinitely more interesting plot breaks surface. The 30-year-old pianist (Kevin Colson) dances again with the woman he loved. She is in the body of Nick's

book musical of the old kind -- ie not a Lloyd Webberian gesamtkunstwerk where the instruments never stop. The orchestra in *Maddie* provides an emotional charge to memories of what might have been, the urge to make up for lost time, but the absence of instant melody means that the situations and characters do not become permeated and defined by music.

Some of the scenes Shaun McKenna and Steven Dexter have written fail to work. The group therapy meeting is not only silly but without function. Martin Connor's pro-

wife and Nick must watch her draped amorously in his landlord's arms. In these peripheral moments it is as if a kraken has swum up from the ocean bed, found the air unfavourable and sunk back.

The show arrives at the Playhouse with good credentials, notably the growing reputation of Stephen Keeling, its composer, although I do hanker for tunes to hum. Fashions change but this is a

recomendation

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P/A IRELAND
To Chairman, Luton Co. based Luton City Soc. Ltd., Museum St., Luton, LU1 1TW. W. Win./Fax: 2638. Relocation Ass.: £20K. Tel: 0171 259 6999. V.John BEAUCHAMP BUREAU

Assistant Business Improvement Manager**Are you experienced in business administration and the processes of change management?****c£17,000 - £22,000 & benefits - Farnborough**

This change programme is bringing in new systems and encouraging people to develop different mindsets for the future. At the heart of the programme in CDA is the Business Management System (BMS) to ensure Total Quality principles are implemented and functioning successfully, backed by a communications programme and ad hoc improvement projects through all areas of the business. The whole initiative is planned and co-ordinated by the Business Improvement Manager, who now needs someone to support him in the administration, implementation and management of the programme.

The role will be wide-ranging and increasingly influential as your knowledge broadens. You will administer the BMS and evaluate quality performance, recommend actions for improvement and in some cases take leadership of projects. It is a brief which does not have fully defined parameters, and the more dynamic and proactive you prove to be, the greater the impact you will be able to make.

CDA

As a minimum you should be educated to degree level and have a diploma in management studies or appropriate equivalent. In addition, you should have excellent communication skills and experience in dealing with the processes of change management, in terms of both systems and people. Possibly from an external or in-house consultancy environment, you should be looking for the opportunity to play a more influential role and see your ideas in action.

In return, you can expect a highly competitive salary and benefits package plus every prospect of rapid career development. This appointment is initially offered on a two year fixed term basis, which may be extended or converted to permanent by mutual agreement.

CDA welcomes applications from suitably qualified people regardless of sex, marital status, race or disability.

For an application form, please contact Jackie Coen at CDA Personnel, Room 1021, Cody Building, DERA, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 0LX. Closing date for receipt of completed applications 4th October 1996.

CDA is a division of DERA an Agency of the MOD

CJES

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS GROUP
5 Lower Whitefriars, London EC4M 5PP
Tel: 0171 505 5250 or 0171 505 5251
Fax No: 0171 505 5251

Our client is a leading international insurance and investment group which, owing to expansion, has the following new openings based in the City. Both positions offer non-contributory pension, private health, free lunches, PRP, season ticket loan and sports club membership. Our client can offer employment in a professional, thriving, working environment.

**CJES P.A. TO CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
LONDON EC3**

£19,000 - £22,000

This appointment calls for candidates aged 25-35 with at least 3-5 years working at director level. Good, accurate secretarial skills are essential including fast shorthand (100), audio and a strong interest in p.c.s. The role is varied and interesting ranging from transatlantic communications, preparing agendas and board papers to dealing with the press and analysts, particularly in the CFO's absence overseas. The job content will grow in line with the successful candidate's ability. We seek an organised, proactive individual with a strong, self-reliant personality and professional objectivity. Reference 5761

**CJES SECRETARY TO PERSONNEL DIRECTOR
LONDON EC3**

£16,000 - £20,000

The successful applicant will be providing full secretarial and administrative support to the Personnel Director and his small team. Shorthand, typing and competent p.c. skills are vital as is a good standard of English and numeracy. Duties will primarily cover personnel matters including post personnel files, correspondence, diaries and travel but will also include an element of public relations - maintenance of PR systems, liaising with PR agency and editing employee newsletter. A flexible attitude is essential as is a good level of drive, energy, diplomacy and discretion. Reference 5762 Applications in strict confidence quoting above references to the Managing Director, CJES.

**ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
(University of London)**

Secretary to the Professor of Clinical Oncology

A secretary is required for this very busy department. Needs to be qualified medical secretary and computer literate (wordperfect and Excel). Salary: £12,129 - £16,788 per annum.

Full details are available from the School Office, RFHSM, Rowland Hill Street, London NW3 2PF. (tel: 0171-794 0500 x 4262). Closing date for applications is 2nd October 1996. Please quote reference number: ONC/SEC/044.

**RECRUITMENT ADMINISTRATOR/
CONSULTANT**
c£16,000 - £18,000

Career Moves is the leading Recruitment Consultancy specialising in the Broadcast industry. We are currently looking for a proactive administrator to assist a Director in dealing with recruitment from all the top broadcasting companies. Although a background in personnel is not essential (it would be helpful) an understanding of broadcasting/media and the ability to think quickly and work as part of a team is essential. This is not a sales position, but you will have to be able to work under pressure and use an intelligent and sensitive approach to liaising with clients and candidates alike. Min 2 years relevant wk experience.

Pathfinders
PA TO DIRECTOR
up to £18,000

This Company is at the cutting edge of on-air news and advertising. It has a customer driven attitude and employs forward-thinking people. One of the Directors, in his mid 30s, requires a PA with initiative, to help him organise his busy schedule and team of 30 journalists. The successful applicant will have at least 3 years' good secretarial/PA experience and excellent skills in shorthand, W4W, Powerpoint and 50wpm typing.

Please telephone Samantha Phillips or Francoise Miossec on

0171 434 3511

SECRETARY/PA
£18,000 pa

Required for property company based in Knightsbridge. We expect the successful candidate to have at least two years experience as Director level working as a Team Secretary, and so the ability to prioritise a varied and hectic work schedule is essential. If you can work on your own initiative, have experience using W4W & WPS, 1 with fast and accurate typing, and the ability to co-ordinate the smooth running of a busy office, contact: Sarah Hutchinson 0171 581 9755 (NO AGENCIES)

**ALL BOX NUMBER REPIES SHOULD BE
ADDRESSED TO: BOX No.**

c/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS
P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST,
LONDON, E1 9GA

PA/SECRETARY TO MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Required by expanding clinical research company in Harley Street. Proficient in MS Office with excellent WP skills and preferably audio. You will provide first-class support to all aspects of a busy director's practice. Three years experience minimum. Non-smoker preferred. Attractive salary dependent on experience.

Send CVs with a hand-written letter to the Administrator at 27 Harley Street, London W1N 1DA. Fax: 0171 436 9897

PA/SECRETARY
c. £21,000

Required by an investment management and property development group near Holland Park tube. Applicants must be non-smokers with previous experience of working at MD level including involvement with travel arrangements. Accurate typing (60 wpm) and shorthand (80 wpm) skills are needed together with knowledge of WordPerfect for Windows. French and/or Polish is an advantage. The job requires a flexible attitude, a high level of numeracy, a professional approach and a sense of humour.

Please send a handwritten letter with CV to Managing Director, Woodsford Commercial Properties Ltd, 12 Addison Avenue, London W11 4QR.

KEARNEY

Senior PA**Good Salary + Overtime + Benefits**

A leading international Executive Search Company requires a first class PA to provide total secretarial and administrative support to two senior consultants working in a busy, varied and friendly office.

Our ideal candidate will have at least three to five years previous PA and secretarial experience as senior manager level. We are looking for a self-motivated individual possessing excellent communication and organisational skills, perfect spoken and written English and German and proficiency in Word and Excel. The ability to prioritise whilst working under pressure and produce high quality work quickly and accurately is also vital.

If you meet the requirements above we would like to hear from you. Please write to Sarah Pestana at the following address enclosing your current curriculum vitae:

A.T. Kearney
Langstone House
Berkeley Square
London W1X 5DH

Closing date: October 1, 1996

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS
REGENT'S PARK

SECRETARY
£15,325 plus benefits

The College is a membership organisation concerned with the standards of training, education and examinations in the medical specialty of obstetrics and gynaecology.

The Overseas Doctors Training Scheme (ODTS), organised by the College, places overseas doctors in posts in the British Isles. The Secretary will work with the ODTS Committee in providing general secretarial duties including word processing, audio and general administration. An understanding of NHS procedures would be helpful. The position requires a good knowledge of Microsoft Word and spreadsheet packages. Experience of Windows 95 will also be essential.

The College, located near Baker Street, offers excellent working conditions with a friendly team and a package that includes free lunches, pension schemes, interest free season ticket loans and generous annual leave.

For details and an application form please telephone Mrs K Dawson, quoting reference number OOTS1, on 0171 262 5425. Closing date for receipt of applications 30th September 1996.

PA/Administrator for City Corporate Finance House

You will be responsible to the Managing Director and your main duties will include providing a full secretarial service together with administrative functions relating to office management and database maintenance.

You must possess excellent English language skills, shorthand at 110 wpm, copy and audio speeds of 70 wpm and 50 wpm respectively and be proficient in Microsoft Office.

The successful applicant will be educated at least to 'A' level standard, have experience at a senior executive level in a corporate finance institution and be self-motivated and organised.

This is a position in a fast-moving working environment, where flexibility and dedication are essential. In return, the Company offers a competitive salary and an opportunity to participate in discretionary bonuses. CV's should be accompanied by hand-written letters.

Please Reply to Box No 3982

FINE EYE FOR FINE ART

£14,000+
PA for Mayfair art broker. Varied and interesting position requiring excellent office admin & communication skills. Typ. 35 wpm. Age 20s.

BIZZY & FUN! £16,000

Super job for 2nd pillar. Looking for a friendly and lively environment. Old school 60 wpm and strong admin & organisational skills. Outstanding personality & music. Graduate with WPS. Age 21-24.

NORMA SKEMP REC LTD
0171 222 5091

ASTLEY WHARTON DAVIS

RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

EUROPEAN LANGUAGE?

PA/Office Manager SW1

£17,000 + p.f. + bonus + company benefits!
Small Corporation. PA with large client base in Europe and USA required. A confident and fun loving person with a sense of humour to work alongside two Senior Managers. Essential experience in a similar role. Excellent communication skills. Essential experience in getting involved and for European travel, an knowledge of European languages an advantage. Good understanding of Word, Excel and Access.

CV's stating current salary to Ann Buckley F.C. Foreman & Partners, 17 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0BD.

SECRETARY FOR MATERNITY COVER

LEGAL SECRETARIAL

RECRUITMENT

E-COM PANY

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0171-831-1220

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RECRUITMENT

</

CREME DE LA CREME



PA TO CHAIRMAN

£25,000 plus bens

The opportunity has arisen to work for the founder and Chairman of this growing and successful management consultancy. He requires a PA with the intellect and stamina to manage the dynamics of his hectic business commitments.

The role involves high level contact with Blue Chip clients and City financiers as well as many special projects and research work. Senior level experience is essential, ideally of graduate calibre, you will have a knowledge of Word for Windows, PowerPoint and Excel.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.

All applicants are particularly welcomed.

0171 814 0800

 Angela Mortimer

PA/Office Manager Public Relations up to £17,000

We are a small Public Relations company based in Victoria seeking to place our PA/Office Manager/Book-keeper who is leaving in October.

Reporting to the Managing Director and working alongside other executive staff, you will be expected to use your own initiative in running the office and helping with PR-related work. You will be an experienced user of WW6 and have some book-keeping experience.

Please send your CV to Victoria Fielding at Commequatre, 22 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0DH.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE PA

£21,000

This hard-working and personable General Manager is responsible for the UK operations of a large international group. He seeks an experienced PA to support him in this key role.

Your position will involve extensive communication at all levels across this vast organisation, co-ordinating and managing a hectic diary and producing presentations. You will need to have excellent organisational and interpersonal skills, the ability to prioritise your day and a good knowledge of a graphics package.

Please call the West End Division.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.

All applicants are particularly welcomed.

0171 287 7788

 Angela Mortimer

FASHION W.8.

£18000 + Bonus

Fast, accurate, calm, efficient, flexible? "Eye on the ball", attention to detail, full of initiative with bags of common sense? If you're all of these (and more), the MD of a fashion/property co would love to meet you. This is a 1-1, involving & fascinating role where the right chemistry is vital. Speedy WP essential. Age 23-35.

BODY SEARCH W.1.

£22000 + Bonus

Two consultants working for a major player in the world of executive search are looking for a secretary. Yes, there can be volume typing but the good news is a real future, free rein to run own projects, delightful bosses and working at senior level in a company which nurtures employee talent. Age 23-30. Good knowledge of W4W, Excel. Powerpoint essential.

PLEASE CALL 0171 373 7779


Personal Assistants for The Chief Executive and The Financial Director

Chief Executive and Financial Director are looking for Personal Assistants for one of the country's most vibrant and successful business information publishing companies. You will need organisational and administrative skills, shorthand and typing (80-100wpm), computer literacy, numeracy, and above all, an excellent sense of humour. Age 25-30 years, with at least 3 years secretarial experience.

If you think you fit the above criteria please write enclosing a copy of your CV to: Karen Flanagan, Carter Communications Limited, St Giles House, 50 Poland Street, London, W1V 4AX.

No Agencies.

SPORTING WORLD

Major National Sporting Body governing Britain's most popular summer sport, now needs a senior PA/Sec. to assist their Chief Executive. Responsibilities are wide-ranging, requiring both well-honed business and social skills, diplomacy and ability to handle a wide variety of tasks.

To discuss further, please call Eliza Zill or Christine Cook.

COVENT GARDEN BUREAU

8 MADDOCK STREET LONDON W1W 8PN

0171 495 6822

Legal Secretary

£19,500

Holborn

Articulate & organised, your personality will count for as much as your Litigation experience for this fast paced, demanding role. Providing full Secretarial support to a dynamic Lawyer, you'll be rewarded with a vibrant, buzzy work environment & excellent Company benefits. High audio content.

Please call NICOLA on 0171 430 2531, 115 High Holborn, London WC1.

PA to Finance Director

£18-£20,000

Baker Street

Avaliable with an immediate start, this high profile Temp to Perm position is ideal for a polished & professional PA. Fully utilising your Director level experience you'll co-ordinate diary & travel arrangements, schedule meetings & liaise with senior management on behalf of this prestigious Consultancy Firm. W4W, Lotus & shorthand skills will prove essential. Please call DANIELLE on 0171 935 7248, 111 Baker Street, London W1.

Senior Secretary

£19,000 + bens

Docklands

Realise your potential in Banking. In this key position you'll provide a comprehensive Secretarial service to a busy division. W4W, Excel & shorthand skills will prove invaluable, as will a courteous, efficient approach.

Please call JOANNA on 0171 538 1155, Ground Floor East, 40 Marsh Wall, London E14.

Team Secretary

£18,000 pro rata + bens

Piccadilly

Not surprisingly these International Property Consultants work from salubrious offices. As part of the team you'll schedule meetings, prepare presentations, transcribe audio, process the admin & liaise with tenants so there's no way you'll be bored!

Please call BEVERLEY or CHRYS on 0171 629 0777, 311 Regent Street, London W1.

Partners Secretary

£18-£20,000 + bens

EC4

This is not your average Secretarial position. Two busy Partners at an eminent firm of chartered accountants need your support. As well as scheduling meetings, co-ordinating diaries & making travel & corporate hospitality arrangements, you'll play a key role in the ongoing development of business opportunities. Please call LORRAINE or CAITLIN on 0171 606 0011, 12 Groveland Court, Bow Lane, London EC4.

Executive Secretary

£18,000

Hammersmith

Maximise your potential with this superb HR Firm in a Director level position. Offering fantastic promotional opportunities this varied post requires a methodical, personable individual with strong WPS.1 & Lotus skills to provide the HR team with all round admin support. Ideal for those from a personnel background. Please call RENEE on 0181 741 6080, 12 Hammersmith Broadway, London W6.

Secretary/PA

£18-£20,000

Victoria

Extremely productive Marketing Department requires a smart, confident PA to join their creative team. You'll have 70wpm audio & copy typing on W4W, PowerPoint & Excel & 80wpm shorthand. Duties include organising events & producing presentations, often to tight deadlines.

Please call CAROLINE or JOANNA on 0171 630 0844, 71-75 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1.

PA/Team Secretary

£17,000 + paid O/T

Nr Angel Tube

A great social life & rewarding role, supporting 7 dynamic young Market Research Executives with project work. You have good WP & prioritising skills & thrive in a young, busy environment. Also offers opportunities to get involved on the PR & advertising side.

Please call TERESA on 0171 638 0055, 25 Moorfields High Walk, Moorgate, London EC2.

Senior Secretary

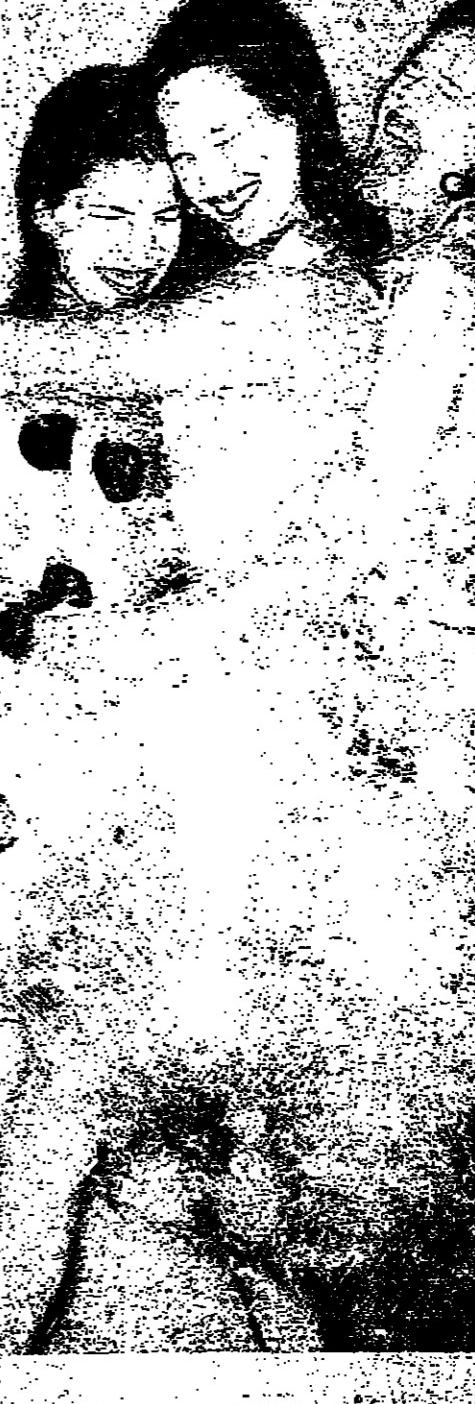
£18,000

Oxford Street

An established Property Company requires a real team player to produce presentations & reports, minute meetings & be a whiz on WPS.1. It's a challenge, where your talents will be fully appreciated. Wonderful offices! Please call EMMA on 0171 434 9545.

25 Oxford Street,
London W1.


Office Angels
Recruitment Consultants



MAINE - TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA/OFFICE MANAGER!

£23-27K + MED + PRP

This prestigious Mayfair Company with a unique business interest is looking for a PA (30-40) male or female. Mainly handling a busy Client's office, 150-160 wpm, 80-90% telephone & 10-20% written responsibility. Office management from previous secretarial experience. You will need to be W4W, Lotus and an advanced computer operator able to deal with complex software.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6EP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 1200


MAINE - TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

HR PA

£21K + BONUS + FREE MEALS

As a PA you will be dealing with a busy company, 150-160 wpm, 80-90% telephone, 10-20% written responsibility. You will be required to do a lot of shorthand, word processing, spreadsheets, etc. You will also be required to type and answer telephone calls. You will be required to work evenings and weekends.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6EP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 1200

MAINE - TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
MATERNITY CONTRACT

PA - £22-25K (PRO-RATA)

This opportunity to gain valuable experience in a leading law firm. As a PA (30-40) you will be required to handle correspondence, file, answer telephone, take messages, etc. You will be required to do a lot of shorthand, word processing, spreadsheets, etc. You will also be required to type and answer telephone calls. You will be required to work evenings and weekends.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6EP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 1200

Administrative Assistant

Central London £13,000 to £14,000

One year fixed term contract (pro-rata)

The British Red Cross cares for people in crisis everywhere - meeting the needs of vulnerable people in times of emergency. An opportunity has arisen for an Administrative Assistant within the International Finance Department to provide administrative and secretarial support to a team of three. This is a part-time post (21 hours) to be worked flexibly over 3 days.

Your duties will include compiling monthly and quarterly reports, maintaining the grants database, compiling spreadsheets, typing letters, organising diaries and dealing with telephone enquiries.

It is essential that you are numerate, have at least one year's office work experience, have word processing skills (to include Word for Windows, with a minimum of 45 words a minute), experience of spreadsheets, have good communication skills and are able to work on your own initiative. Database skills would be desirable.

Please write enclosing a full cv and quoting reference JT/0002 to: Personnel Division, British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EJ. Closing date: 2 October 1996.

As a charity we are only able to reply to those selected for interview. If you do not hear from us within 8 weeks we regret that your application has not been successful.

 British Red Cross
Caring for people in Crisis

HOBSTONES

International Shorthand PA

£18-23,000 Package

Senior role supporting the General Manager and Marketing Executives within this International Banking Division. Surrounded by 'High Achievers' means you must enjoy a hectic and demanding role, be confident and enjoy liaising with CEO's and Governmental agencies.

90/60, solid banking experience.

Windows experience essential.

Please call Nicola Guise in the City office on

0171 377 9919

RECRUITMENT

HOBSTONES

Early Bird Desk Assistants

£20-22,000 with Bens

Exciting roles with fantastic long term prospects providing comprehensive sales, admin and secretarial support to a number of Dealer Desks. Get truly involved with trade support and get to know all their clients. Ideally 6 months Dealing Room experience. A level education and exceptional organisational ability required.

Please call Nicola Guise or

Antabel Bingham in our City office on 0171 377 9919

DON'T DELAY RING US TODAY!

RECRUITMENT

SENIOR SECRETARY

London Bridge

Leading investment bank urgently requires Senior Secretary to work within expanding department. Strong organisational skills with the ability to cope with the high volume of telephone enquiries. This vacancy is a full time supportive and professional type. Experience of Word for Windows, Excel and PowerPoint preferred. Audio and Shorthand knowledge an advantage. Excellent prospects and overtime an option!

SENIOR SECRETARY - TEMP TO PERMANENT

City

Dynamic marketing department within Global investment bank requires experienced DTP operators and secretaries to assist with a wide range of assignments. Word for Windows, PowerPoint and Excel required. Call us now to discuss competitive packages.

DTP SECRETARIES

£9.50 Phr+

Excellent

Senior secretaries with excellent organisational and communication skills urgently required for a busy Real Estate department in the City's leading financial institutions. Word for Windows, PowerPoint and Excel are the packages urgently needed for these exciting assignments.

SECRETARY/PA - GLOBAL ASSET FINANCE

London Bridge

Looking for long term temporary work? - One client, a leading American Bank, is currently seeking a committed and reliable Secretary/PA to work in their Global Asset Finance Department. Assessing four lively consultants you need evidence of having worked in a busy pressurised environment. This outgoing assignment could potentially go permanent. A perfect opportunity to prove yourself. Experience of Excel and Word for Windows required.

City in search of the multiskilled

**Craig Seton reports
on a renaissance
in Birmingham**

Birmingham's new upmarket image as a national and international business centre places an onus on the city's secretarial recruitment firms to supply their markets with motivated, adaptable and multi-skilled secretaries for temporary and permanent appointments.

Britain's second-biggest city was ravaged by industrial decline in the early 1980s, but now has a growing reputation as a prime location for financial and professional services. Its £180 million International Convention Centre attracts home and overseas business visitors and inward investment has brought an influx of firms to the locality.

Secretarial recruiters say they have risen to the challenge created by Birmingham's renaissance and changes in the job market. More use of information technology and company downsizing sustain city firms' big demand for temporary secretaries, but as business confidence rises employers are filling posts with permanent appointments.

Local secretarial recruitment companies report that business is picking up as demand rises for secretaries who are fully computer-literate, skilled in business administration and can handle a wide range of tasks. Many of the temp positions that abound can lead to full-time jobs for the better qualified. Salaries are rising; top-skilled senior secretaries and PAs can earn more than £20,000 a year.

Two years ago the Angela Mortimer Group bought the respected Katie Bard

people. The difference between getting a job and not getting a job depends on an applicant's interview skills."

CW Recruitment Professionals moved to Birmingham in 1994 from London and now places secretaries in most employment sectors in Birmingham. Charles Wilcox, its director, believes that there is a dearth of well-trained people to fill legal secretary positions commanding top-end salaries of up £13,000. He says: "Clients say they have plenty of positions to fill and they will also look after training."

He puts the demand down to the rapid growth of legal services in Birmingham. Generally, the market is much busier, with more permanent openings.

Red Employment, the national chain, says that demand for secretaries with audio and shorthand skills has dropped. The company states: "Much more important is a secretary's ability, willingness and flexibility to take responsibility for a wide range of tasks."

The firm says that the expanding role of secretaries includes liaison with external clients, collating statistics, record-keeping, presentations and report-writing.

A recent national survey by Reed found that one in five Birmingham firms is now experiencing skills shortages — for example, in languages — among secretaries and personal assistants for company directors. It says that people with the best qualifications can demand higher salaries from employers.

firm that specialised in senior secretaries and PAs for executives. The company has expanded into other sectors and Karen Tirebuck, the company's senior consultant, says that temporary and contract appointments represent more than half its business. An increasing number of "temp to permanent" positions are opening opportunities for toy jobseekers to trawl for the best staff prospects with companies.

She says: "Birmingham is certainly an up-and-coming area and salary levels are increasing. This year we have done a number of £20K-plus-benefits packages, whereas a few years ago the maximum would have been around £15K."

Ms Tirebuck says that employers increasingly want secretaries who can master numerous software packages and handle presentations and desktop publishing. If anything, there is a shortage in some sectors of multiskilled people, but she adds that the Higher Diploma in Administrative Procedures, available on local college courses, is producing a core of well-qualified recruits.

The Birmingham office of Kelly Services has banks, solicitors and architects among its clients. The firm's Amanda Arnold says: "The firms we do business with are looking for better-than-average



Stella Rourke beat younger applicants to become senior secretary to the general manager of a plastics firm: "I have kept my skills up to date"

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18 1996

A senior post for Stella, 52

A 52-year-old Stella Rourke, a Birmingham secretary for 30 years, had almost given up hope of a permanent job again after being made redundant, but the City firm of Select Secretaries thought her up-to-date skills and wide experience were ideal for an executive's office. *Craig Seton writes*.

Paula Barnes, the former secretary who started Select Secretaries with a colleague, Jenny Hindmarch, seven years ago, says: "Senior personnel in Birmingham still want secretaries who know about the business side, can attend meetings with them, undertake projects and fulfil the role of an experienced PA."

Mrs Rourke, formerly a secretary to several executives, has a wide range of self-taught computer skills, including in graphics and desktop publishing. She also has excellent shorthand, which Ms Barnes says is in demand again among senior executives in Birmingham and is not always a strong point with younger secretaries.

Select Secretaries advised Mrs Rourke to apply for the post of senior secretary to the general manager of BIP, a plastics firm in Oldbury, West Midlands. Though there were more than 30 younger applicants, she got the job in June.

Mrs Rourke says that her boss was looking for a secretary with a cool head, tact and experience. She adds: "I have always kept my skills up to date. If you do not, then you will find yourself out of the jobs market."

Midlands Crème

PA TO DIVISIONAL MD

Solihull

Are you a proactive, graduate editor PA with the ability to work independently with the MD of a highly successful leading company? You'll be able to build client relationships and demonstrate all levels of written communication skills vital, as is the ability to work independently under pressure.

Tel: 0121 633 4443

KATIE BARD EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES

Neille House, 14 Warwick St, Birmingham B1 5TS
PART OF THE ANGELA MORTIMER GROUP PLC

BI-LINGUAL SALES & MARKETING SECRETARY

Birmingham

Do you possess the prerequisites to excel within a challenging role working at Director level of a multinationals manufacturing company? Fluent in German and preferably French, a keen interest in Sales and Marketing and a track record of achievement will ensure your success within this international environment. Tel: 0131 633 4443

KATIE BARD EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES

Neille House, 14 Warwick St, Birmingham B1 5TS
PART OF THE ANGELA MORTIMER GROUP PLC

YOUNG ACHIEVER

North Birmingham

A bustling marketing department within the leisure industry is seeking a highly motivated individual with ambition and confidence to support three promotional executives. You must be energetic with outstanding organisational skills to enable you to cope with extensive diary management.

Tel: 0121 633 4443

KATIE BARD EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES

Neille House, 14 Warwick St, Birmingham B1 5TS
PART OF THE ANGELA MORTIMER GROUP PLC

PA TO CHIEF EXEC. & MD

Shropshire

£25K + Bonus + Relocation package
A fast moving multi-national company is looking for an exceptionally professional and efficient individual. To manage this role effectively, you will have a number of years senior level experience and have the ability to work under pressure within a fast moving environment of a global nature, fluency in German and shorthand. Tel: 0121 633 4443

KATIE BARD EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES

Neille House, 14 Warwick St, Birmingham B1 5TS
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GOLF: CHEPSTOW VENUE ALTERS COURSE TO BENEFIT SOLHEIM CUP SPECTATORS

Surprises in store with new look to St Pierre

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE golfer who knows St Pierre will get a surprise at some of the changes that have been made to the Chepstow course for the Solheim Cup, the biennial match between teams of 12 women professionals from Europe and the United States, which starts on Friday. The route has been altered so that the 18th, the scenic short hole from a raised tee to a green the other side of a stretch of the lake, is now the 10th.

A joker in the professional's

not many matches are expected to go to the home hole. It has no grandstands around it. Yesterday afternoon, St Pierre looked as attractive as a landscape painting. The words "St Pierre" made up of flowers were clearly visible in the land that sloped down from the tee of the 16th.

The magnificent chestnut trees that line the drive, and which have welcomed visitors since this course opened in 1962, seemed to have an added tinge of colour in the autumn sunshine and the white canvas forming a tented village set up to the right of the 1st added to the occasion. The practice ground, for this event only, is now round the back of the hotel, past the tennis courts. At tea-time, it was deserted.

All the players, officials and a good many camp followers had gathered at the entrance to the hotel for official photographs. Behind the players were the medieval twin towers, draped in reddening Virginia creeper, of the 14th-century building that was owned by Sir David ap Philip. As subjects go, Sir David must have been ideal. He fought for at least two kings and lent them money against the security of the Crown jewels, which were deposited at St Pierre.

Adding a more up-to-date touch yesterday was the EC flag, which flew from one tower, and the Stars and Stripes, which flew from the other.

On the 8th and 17th greens, water sprinklers were doing their job while a lone caddie was hard at work on the 10th green, rolling three balls



Helen Alfredsson, of Sweden, enjoys her first practice round at St Pierre yesterday

across the putting surface to note the speed of the surface and the undulations.

His name, he said proudly, was Henrik Wickberg and he caddies for Catrin Nilsmark, one of the two selections for the Europe team for this match made by Mickey Walker, its captain. Recently the

Wickberg-Nilsmark partnership was cemented when they got married. "She's Catrin Nilsmark Wickberg in Sweden," Wickberg explained "but in golf she is still Catrin Nilsmark."

Beyond Wickberg, the eye was caught by a sign in the distance over the entrance and

exit to the St Pierre complex. "Thank you for coming," it said. "We look forward to seeing you at Muirfield Village in 1998."

Muirfield Village, Jack Nicklaus's golf course in Dublin, Ohio, is the site of the next Solheim Cup. So far, it seems, nothing has been overlooked.

IN BRIEF

Robinson aims for quick win on return

STEVE ROBINSON, of Wales, the former World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion, returns to the ring tonight after an absence of almost a year (Srikumar Sen writes). He meets Kelton McKenzie, of Leicester, at the Rhondda Fach sports centre near Pontypridd, aiming for a victory to help him to regain his self-esteem after his eight-round humiliation by Naseem Hamed last September.

It was only through the encouragement of his manager, Dai Gardiner, that he managed to find the enthusiasm to box again after eight idle months. Gardiner said that Robinson is now as good as he was when he stopped Paul Hollinshead in 1994. If that is the case, he should be able to deal with McKenzie inside the distance and a spectacular win would do a lot for his confidence.

Richie Woodhall's challenge for Keith Holmes's World Boxing Council middleweight title has been moved from Washington to Marlborough, Maryland, on Saturday, October 19.

Hick to rest

Cricket: Graeme Hick, the Worcestershire batsman, has rejected three lucrative offers to play abroad this winter, believed to be from Northern Districts and Auckland in New Zealand, and Western Province in South Africa. Hick, who was left out of the England tour party for Zimbabwe and New Zealand, is to rest after six years of almost non-stop cricket.

Steve Barwick, who made his debut in 1981, was one of four players released by Glamorgan yesterday. The others were Neil Kendrick, the slow left-arm bowler, and Alistair Dalton and James Williams, two young batsmen.

Zulle blows hot

Cycling: Tony Rominger, the winner of the Tour of Spain in 1992, 1993 and 1994, came back to form to win the 46-kilometre time-trial from El Tiemblo to Avila by two seconds from his fellow Swiss, Alex Zulle. In difficult, windy conditions, Zulle, eighth before the start, took the race leader's yellow jersey, 1min 04sec ahead of Miguel Indurain, who had started the tenth stage in 22nd position.

Rush job

American football: Jerome Bettis rushed for 133 yards and two touchdowns as Pittsburgh Steelers beat Buffalo Bills 24-6 on Monday night. Jim Kelly, the Bills quarterback, was intercepted four times.

COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS

The four top scores in the individual Shieldford competition played on the company golf days listed below now comprise the team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

Date	Company name	Venue	Score
6 SEP	DRION ENGINEERING SERVICES LIMITED	BALLATER	161
	PMAGAGE 36	S INCLURE 43	* L MACKAY 41 * L PATTERSON 39
6 SEP	HAVELEY TRUST COMPANY (INTERNATIONAL) LTD	ROYAL GUERNSEY	161
	K CORBIN 41	D ROLLSHAW 42	* J GILLIGAN 40 * REGGIO 36
6 SEP	BROWNHILLS GLASS CO. LTD	PATSHULL PARK GOLF	161
		& COUNTRY CLUB	
6 SEP	R LACEY 37	P BESWICK 43	* B BIRD 41 * PWOODALL 40
6 SEP	KPING	WOLLATON PARK	154
	J PELLING 36	* B INVENTOR 40	* H HASSALL 40 * T TREACHER 38
6 SEP	CLERICAL MEDICAL INVESTMENT GROUP	THE MID YORKSHIRE	152
	B TOWSE 32	M CARROLL 39	* J HENDERSON 41 * J MCNAIR 40
6 SEP	HEMITSON BECKE & SHAW	ELTON FURZE	150
	P COUCH 32	* J JACKSON 45	* S MANNING 36 * J JOHNSON 37
6 SEP	LORNE STEWART PLC	MOTTRAM HALL HOTEL	144
	E MARSH 32	* A BODDIE 38	* J RYTHM 37 * V ABBOTT 37
6 SEP	LOOKERS	WALLASEY	144
	A MURPHY 29	* A COLLINS 40	* B WICKENS 36 * BILLINGTON 37
6 SEP	BRUNEL LTD	LADBROOK PARK	141
	J STEED 38	P PHOENIX 34	N STANDHAM 36 * D SPOMER 33
6 SEP	LLOYDS BANK PLC	KINGSWOOD	136
	J WHITE 35	J HALL 32	J CLEAVES 37 J HARVEY 32
6 SEP	GRAYSIDE LIMITED	EPSON	134
	S FRANCIS 33	* A PRY 35	* M HARRISON 31 * E HILL 35
6 SEP	ARC INTERNATIONAL PLC	DONNINGTON GROVE	131
	S GLENVILLE 34	A DICKENSON 32	* R HOBBS 33 * J HUFF 32
7 SEP	BANQUE PARIBAS	BIRCHWOOD PARK	163
	S BACH 41	RICHARDSON 41	* J POLLOCK 41 * A MITCHELL 40
7 SEP	LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL	SELSDON PARK	154
	P WATKINSON 42	A PAMPFIELD 39	D ELLIS 38 * H SUMNER 35
7 SEP	TDK (UK) LTD COMPONENTS DIVISION	THE BELFRY	106
	C HILL 30	* M BORG 29	* S INCLURE 29 * I OGASAWARA 28
9 SEP	HING TIMBER LTD	THE MANOR HOUSE	133
	J DE WILTON 27	* B TRIPP 36	* D LATHAM 35 * E EAST 35
10 SEP	EUROPA - EUROPEAN EXPRESS LIMITED	STAVERTON PARK	158
	M BARRELL 39	* HAYTON 36	* M POTTER 41 * T TAYLOR 42
10 SEP	SPECTUS SYSTEMS LTD	HELLDON LAKES	152
	R HAMILTON 33	* CRIMPTON 42	* GELTHORPE 39 * A THRETHAM 38
10 SEP	RESIN EXPRESS LIMITED	STOCKS HOTEL COUNTRY CLUB	148
	D VIEHOFF 38	* J CRYER 40	* K RICHARDSON 36 * FRENTON 36
10 SEP	UPONOR LTD	BREADSALL PRIORY	147
	H HALEYS 39	G HARRISON 37	M HERLEY 31 * F WERRALL 40
10 SEP	R J MAXWELL & SON LTD	CASTLEROCK	144
	P GRIEves 36	G TELFORD 34	* T CROWLEY 36 * J GRAHAM 36
10 SEP	WINCHESTER WHITE LIMITED	SANDFORD SPRINGS	138
	J WHITE 34	* B WELLES 37	* T O'WALLON 34 * A CHADDELL 34
10 SEP	XIA CARS (UK) LTD	THE BELFRY	134
	K WOLMER 36	* T WENTWORTH 34	* M HEXTOR 35 * T WALLACE 35
11 SEP	LLOYDS BANK PLC CORPORATE BANKING	KINGSWOOD	145
	R TAYLOR 32	* M HAWKINS 42	* T KELARDE 36 * S ZACHARIAS 34
11 SEP	SILVER LEVENE	DYRHAM PARK COUNTRY CLUB	139
	H LEVENE 34	L KONG CHONG 35	O RATHER 35
12 SEP	SHANDON LEISURE	BLAIDHILLS	162
	J HANGSELLOR 45	E JEWING 40	* M BUXTON 40 * N HOOK 37
12 SEP	NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE	CLACTON - ON - SEA	144
	A PRETTINGHAM 38	* T DYE 35	* R BOWMAN 35 * D EDWARDS 33
12 SEP	HAMMOND SUDARDS	LYTHAM & ST ANNES	133
	T RUSSELL 34	* TELEX 35	* P GALT 33 * GARNETT 31

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RACING: BRITISH THREE-YEAR-OLDS FAIL TO MAKE THE GRADE

Classic crop reap poor harvest against elders

By JULIAN MUSCAT

THE overall ability of this year's three-year-old crop in Britain has plummeted to depths unparalleled in the last decade. In Pattern races against their elders, the classic generation has triumphed just seven times in 36 contests.

That total is by some way the lowest for the period under review. At the corresponding stage over the last 11 seasons, the worst yield came in 1993, when three-year-olds annexed 12 Pattern races. The highest total of 20 was achieved in 1989. The average over the same period is 16, more than double the tally accrued by this year's vintage.

And the picture is bleaker if the performance of horses contesting the first four British classics is further scrutinised. No fewer than 51 classic contestants have subsequently competed 81 times in all-aged races, yet only Mark Of Esteem, through his Celebration Mile victory at Goodwood, has landed an all-aged Pattern event. It amounts to a savage denouement of the classic generation.

So much was expected when Alhaarth emerged from winter quarters with the 2000 Guineas apparently at his mercy. Unbeaten in five juven-

ile starts, Alhaarth became the first two-year-old to land four group races since the Pattern's inception 25 years ago. He remains winless after six outings this term and his contemporaries appear to have followed his slide.

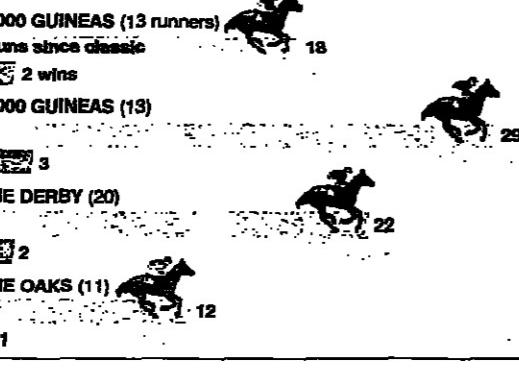
Geoffrey Gibbs, until last week the British Horseracing Board handicapper responsible for the juvenile classification, conceded yesterday that Alhaarth's Dewhurst Stakes victory was overrated. "Alhaarth doesn't appear to have reproduced his form of last year," Gibbs said. "With hindsight, we over-egged the Dewhurst form but the overall merit of last year's two-year-olds was average. That has

been reflected in their performances this year."

The sense of disappointment has not been confined to Alhaarth. Shaamit, the Derby winner, has twice failed when tested against his elders, most recently when fourth in the Irish Champion Stakes. His troubled passage on that occasion entitles him to a more favourable assessment, yet his failure to finish ahead of Danes Design is hardly encouraging. Shaamit entered the winter recess with a rating insufficient for inclusion in the Free Handicap, which allocated places to 128 juveniles trained in Europe.

The Derby is perennially the source of Britain's finest

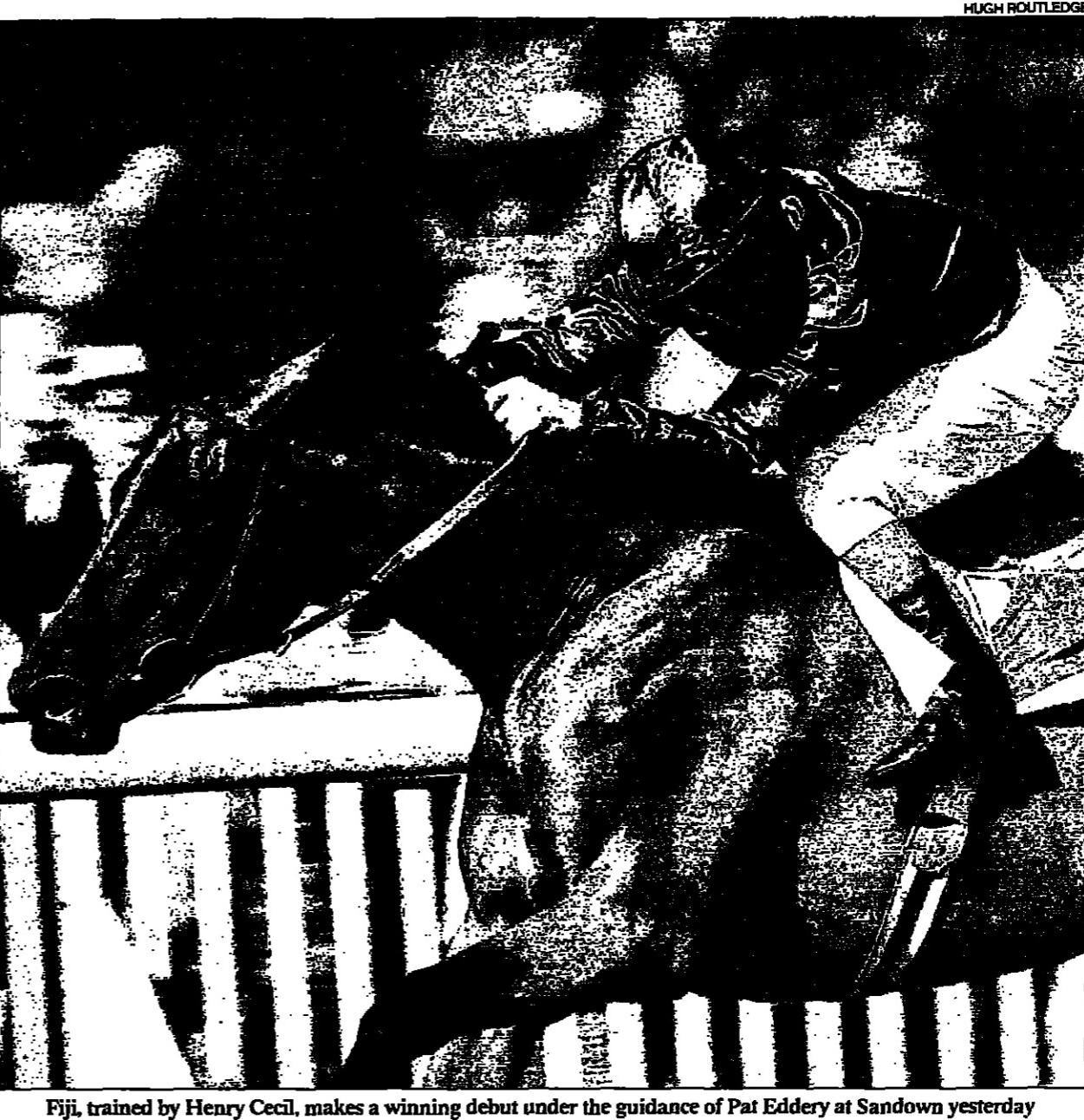
HOW 1996 CLASSIC RUNNERS HAVE GIVEN BEST TO THEIR ELDERS



three-year-olds yet none among the 20-strong field has mastered their elders within the Pattern. Of the two triumphs recorded in all-aged company, Busy Flight won a listed race at Doncaster and Shantou a conditions event at Windsor. The subsequent Pattern victories of Shantou, Dushyantor and St Mawes were achieved at the direct expense of their contemporaries but Shaamit, Glory Of Dancer, Alhaarth and Storm Trooper have failed in nine collective attempts against senior opposition.

That contrasts sharply with runners in last year's Derby. By the season's end, Lammtarra, Tamure, Presenting, Faful, Court Of Honour, Riyadhan, Hummel and Spectrum all graduated to Pattern success after running at Epsom. Moreover, six of them achieved the distinction against their elders.

Even though nearly 80 per cent of all-aged Pattern races have already been settled, it would be premature to dismiss the entire three-year-old crop. Mark Of Esteem and Bosta Sham may yet achieve champion miler status, but the mediocrity implicit from results thus far has made it a poor year for the Turf's many purists.



Fiji, trained by Henry Cecil, makes a winning debut under the guidance of Pat Eddery at Sandown yesterday

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER
2.15 Clara Bliss
2.50 Roushan
3.20 Witherkey

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.25 BATTLE GROUND. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.55 SLEEPTIME (nap).

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0-2 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs D Robson H Hall 9-10 - B West (4) BB
Breeders' number. Date in brackets. So figure form (F = colt; B = gelding; G = uncastrated male; E = brought down; S = stepped up; R = retired; D = deceased). Horse's name. Days since last race. Age in months. Weight in pounds. Blankets: V = very; H = hood; E = Eyscheld. C = coarse author; D = distance winner; CD =

course and distance winner; BF = beaten (twice in last race); G = on whom has home form (F = firm; good to firm; taut; B = good to soft; good to soft; hard; taut; taut; blancket; V = very; H = hood; E = Eyscheld. C = coarse author; D = distance winner; CD =

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.15 DISMISSAL CLAIMING STAKES

(2-Y-O, £3,339, 5f 6yds) (10 runners)
101 (8) 4122 LAST CHANCE 24 (D,B,F) (C) Allen 9-0 ... Pat Eddery 80
102 (7) 24210 SUITE FACTORS 24 (F) (In Sheds) K Burns 8-9 ... T Dorn 85
103 (1) 03 DANIELL PRINCE 14 (M) (B) Bales G L Moon 8-7 ... S Whitham 77
104 (4) 000 ELLINS LAD 14 (M) C Hollings 8-6-5 ... D O'Neill 84
105 (9) 6610 CLARA BLISS 14 (F) (C) Codd 8-6-5 ... M Smith 84
106 (1) 24210 HORSE 14 (M) (C) Codd 8-6-5 ... J McEvoy 84
107 (5) 1605 JUST LUCK 23 (D,M) A Parker 8-5 ... L Nevin 80
108 (3) 5005 RED GARTER 11 (M) (A MacGivney) K McAffie 8-4 ... G Carter 81
109 (2) 610 SWEET AMORE 17 (M) (H) Haining 8-2 ... L Nevin 80
110 (10) 155 JULY WOO 76 (M) (J) Wetherome D Denvir 8-0 ... S Driven 80
BETTING: 5-2 Danzell Gold 3-1 Seeling Fortune, 7-1 Winstanley, 12-1 Sledbury, 9-1 No Chances, 10-1 Royal Gold 3-1, 12-1 others.

1995 STANDOWN 8-1 L Estell (11-3) J Berry 13/2

FORM FOCUS

LAST CHANCE 8-1 (Colt) 11-3 J Berry 13/2

DISMISSAL CLAIMING 8-1 (M) 11-3 J Berry 13/2

WITHERKEY 8-1 (M) 11-3 J Berry 13/2

2.50 GORDON MEDLEN AND SONIA P COE MEMORIAL LIMITED STAKES (3-Y-O, £3,745, 7f 11yds) (8 runners)

301 (2) 53043 ROUSHAN 11 (M) (R) Carrington 8-1 ... J Tait 95
302 (1) 02001 KENPHOTO OF CLARA 13 (F) (M) (L) Hughes 10-0 ... Doulman 94
303 (5) 53042 LUCKY ARCHER 13 (F) (In Sheds) H Cox 8-12 ... Pat Eddery 98
304 (2) 53026 ELITE FORCE 13 (M) (S) (S) (Sheds) P Dapple 8-12 ... J McEvoy 91
305 (6) 55040 SECRET ACT 21 (D,F,G) H Cox 8-12 ... M Fenlon 91
306 (7) 20403 PROUD MONK 11 (M) (P) Higgins 8-12 ... S Whitham 91
307 (8) 13112 MISS PICKPOCKET 13 (M) (S) (Sheds) G L Moon 8-12 ... D O'Neill 91
BETTING: 2-1 Danzell Gold, 3-1 Reckless, 5-1 Diamond Beach, 5-1 Lucky Archer, 6-1 B-Fire, 7-1 Proud Monk, 10-1 others.

1995 SUMMER RETREAT 8-1 L Estell (11-4) J Godden 8/6

FORM FOCUS

ROUSHAN 9-1 and 2nd of 19 in 1st Vet 16s in handicap at Kempton (1st, good to soft); PROUD MONK (2nd, better, off) 7f 12yds; ELITE FORCE 13 (3rd of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); MISS PICKPOCKET 13 (4th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); SECRET ACT 21 (5th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); PROUD MONK 11 (6th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); LUCKY ARCHER 13 (7th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); MISS PICKPOCKET 13 (8th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); SECRET ACT 21 (9th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); PROUD MONK 11 (10th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); SECRET ACT 21 (11th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); PROUD MONK 11 (12th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); SECRET ACT 21 (13th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); PROUD MONK 11 (14th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); SECRET ACT 21 (15th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); PROUD MONK 11 (16th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); SECRET ACT 21 (17th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); PROUD MONK 11 (18th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); SECRET ACT 21 (19th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); PROUD MONK 11 (20th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); SECRET ACT 21 (21st of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); PROUD MONK 11 (22nd of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); SECRET ACT 21 (23rd of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); PROUD MONK 11 (24th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); SECRET ACT 21 (25th of 10) Descent Line, in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good to firm); 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Why the whip must be the rider's last resort

Once again, racing is up to its ears in the row that will not go away. To whip or not to whip? After the devastatingly tough finish to the St Leger on Saturday, two jockeys, Frankie Dettori, who rode the winner, Shantou, and Pat Eddery, who rode the second horse, Dushyantha, were both banned for overuse of the whip.

It is one of those issues that drives a wedge through the country: all macho posturing on one side, all gentleness and caring on the other. And, strange to relate, the macho types are those involved with horses; the softies generally have nothing to do with the animals.

"Most people go into horses because they love them, and then somehow get led along the path that says, if you want to get anywhere, they have to lose the feeling for the animal itself." Apposite words in an excellent and intriguing book I am reading.

Robert Wright said yesterday in this newspaper that the vet "cares above all for the wellbeing of the

The tendency to coarseness runs through racing'

not simply generous; he is entering an unwritten agreement. You are supposed to be decent enough to buy him a drink back. That is how it works, you see: a contract of reciprocal generosity.

It is more than a question of horses being bred for some human purpose. The whole issue is a two-way street. And that involves responsibility, not just for "the thoroughbred" as an abstract entity, but for horses as individuals. It is a matter of simple

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

and landed with both front legs stuck on the top of a fence.

He could have done some fairly serious damage to either or both of us but, thank God, he didn't. Next time he tried it, I was a bit quicker, and I gave him two sharp backhanders with a whip. And that sorted that out (that day) and it was back to the preferred regimen of positive reinforcement and reward. "Logical, consistent and fair,"

another voice in the same book says.

'Any walloping free-for-all is unacceptable'

The whip can, then, be useful. I don't object to its use in principle or even in practice, but it is my last resort. For some, male and female, coarsened by the macho he's-gotta-respect-you attitude, it is the first. The tendency to coarseness runs right through racing, mostly because we are talking about very considerable sums of money. But money does not give us the right to break the contract.

For a jockey, striving to keep the balance between the wrath of his trainer and the wrath of the stewards, it is a difficult business: damned if

they whip, damned if they don't. My response is simple: hard luck. That is the nature of the job. You get to fly with the angels for your living, so accept that there are a few difficult bits.

The Jockey Club is right to jump on jockeys who push their horses and their luck too far. The exact framework of the rules may or may not need tinkering with, but any kind of walloping free-for-all is utterly unacceptable. The phrase "animal rights" has become the ultimate knee-jerk negative argument to questions such as this.

Anything that comes from "those animal rights people" must be wrong. Arguments in favour of animal rights are traditionally resisted, rather than met, by philosophers and by too many horse people.

My belief is that moral responsibility is something that goes beyond the barrier of species, just as it goes beyond that of race.

* *Reading the Horse's Mind* by Jackie Budd, published by Ringpress (£16.99).

RUGBY UNION

Voyle earns vote as Wales seek greater mobility

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THOUGH Wales have yet to become completely ensnared in the dispute between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and its potential players, they will have been relieved yesterday to name a team to play France in Cardiff next Wednesday that shows only one English-based player, Gareth Llewellyn. In view of their heavy programme between now and Christmas, the last thing they want is for rugby's version of the "English disease" to creep over the Severn Bridge.

Representatives of the exiled playing communities in England have already had talks with the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs over their contractual responsibilities and release for international duty. However, Terry Cobner, the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) director of rugby, believes that the relationship between him, the players and their clubs remains healthy.

"It was a concern to us the moment players went to England. This is why we have tried to keep them in Wales," Cobner said. "I have no information that we have any problems, but it would be very regrettable if we were not allowed access to our internationals in England." Cobner acknowledged that control over players, 20 of whom are now contracted direct to the WRU, was a significant factor in discussions with the Welsh clubs and an advantage that the RFU would love to have.

Llewellyn, the Harlequins meeting with Italy in Rome on October 5. There was a good prospect of Richard Webster, late of Salford and now with Bath, becoming the first to resume his Wales career, but the flanker damaged medial ligaments in his knee last week and is not expected to be fit before the end of the month.

"They still need time to adjust to the union game," Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, said of Webster, Scott Gibbs, Stuart Evans and David Young, who were named in the squad last week. "It's a measure of their professionalism that they are honest about

their form and fitness. Their professional attitude has already rubbed off on the other squad players and they are all making encouraging progress."

Voyle, 26, won his first cap as a replacement against Australia on tour last summer, since when he has joined Llanelli from Newport. This season, the emphasis has switched away from 6ft 10in giants such as Jones, since support for the jumper is now legal and the scrum has become the more significant set-piece area as teams attempt to keep the ball in play.

"Mike will give us ability, attitude and an all-round contribution which is needed in the new game," Bowring said. "I'm sure he will maintain the quality of our lineout."

Voyle will jump at the front, while the experienced Llewellyn reverts to the middle, where most of his club rugby has been played. Whether Jones can make his way back will depend on whether he can display the added mobility that has been a notable feature of England's tallest一线out player, Martin Bayfield.

Bowring was less than pleased at the disruption to training on Monday night, caused by Swansea and Pontypridd changing their league fixture to last night. "If I can't schedule regular Monday practice sessions for the national squad we may have to revert to weekend sessions and invoke the six-day rule once more," he said.

Voyle shows the lineout ability that Wales hope will unsettle France next week



North unhappy about Twickenham's perceived neglect

BY DAVID HANDS

ENTHUSIASM for the divisional concept may be far from uniform in England, but the North, as ever, will sustain it as the principal plank in their playing structure. The North selectors meet at Sale on September 28, working on the assumption that players must be available and eligible for England, and therefore they will not choose rugby league players whose involvement with rugby union is only short-term.

Paul Turner, having moved to

Bedford and accepted a position in the Wales coaching hierarchy, is no longer available to coach the North. However, David Stubbs and Mark Nelson remain from last season's panel and will prepare the squad for games against Queensland, the New Zealand Barbarians and the Junior Springboks in November, and against Argentina on December 1.

At their most recent meeting, the divisional representatives expressed sharp criticism over neglect by Twickenham of the domestic scene.

"It is a sad reflection on the Rugby

Football Union that so many people are working so hard for the game and being badly let down," John Branthwaite, the North chairman, said. "The focus of attention at Twickenham has been so much on two major issues that 98 per cent of the game is being overlooked."

Branthwaite acknowledged that the RFU had been involved in a considerable decision-making process over the five nations' championship in recent weeks but contended that the dispute with the leading English clubs should not be allowed

to affect the running of the game. "There is no excuse for the paralysis which seems to have gripped the overall administration since the advent of open rugby," he said.

"If the workload has increased so dramatically, then it is up to the people who control these things to sort out the staffing and make sure decisions are made which keep the game moving until working parties and sub-committees report back."

There is little sympathy in the North for the arguments proposed by the English Professional Rugby

Union Clubs (EPRU) and their desire for self-determination: "Maybe the time has come for the rank and file to speak out once again," Branthwaite added ominously, referring to the two special general meetings called by the RFU earlier this year.

If another special meeting were called now and EPRU's involvement in our game were put to the vote, I'm sure that the outcome would be. It would not involve upping the £2.5 million handout to pay crazy contracts which shouldn't have been agreed in the first place."

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BASKETBALL

Cautious Cadle silent on Towers tactics

IF LONDON Towers are as badly prepared for the tricky start to their European Cup programme as Kevin Cadle, their coach would suggest, the Budweiser League Champions could be heading for trouble in Verona tonight (Nicholas Harling writes).

Towers will undoubtedly miss the height of their 6ft 11in centre as much as they will lack the resilience in the back court of his England teammate, Karl Brown, who broke his right foot last month. Nor can Towers call on Tony Windless, their American forward, who is ineligible to compete in Europe.

Having lost Austin and Brown, Cadle has become dependent on Paul Deppisch, a newcomer, whose tally of 16 three-point shots over the weekend has demonstrated that Towers may yet possess the man to shock the Italians.

Bragason, and added Alan Cunningham to his squad, but it was not in his plan that Neville Austin would travel out on crutches, having suffered a badly sprained left ankle during the win at Worcester on Saturday.

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would he call on his Italian leg, to resume the search for a high-profile figure to transform their moribund championship cricket.

Despite winning both knockout cup finals, Lancashire stand only two places off the bottom of the county championship entering the last round of fixtures.

Since losing David Lloyd to the job of England coach, Lancashire have been trawling the cricket world for a suitable replacement and the unavailability of Lillee comes as a serious blow. "I was

extremely interested," Lillee said yesterday. "I perceived it as a great challenge at this stage of my career." He was unable, however, to extricate himself from commitments to the Australian Cricket Board.

Whoever is appointed is likely to be working alongside Mike Watkinson who, despite much speculation to the contrary, retains the unanimous support of the committee to continue as captain next season.

Watkinson has permission to miss the final game of the summer, along with all-rounder Ian Austin, as they are representing England in the Hong Kong sixes.

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Demolishing an absolutely fabulous theory

A good memory is sometimes a curse, especially when you watch a lot of television. For the first five minutes of last night's terrific *Timewatch: The History of a Mystery* (BBC2), I was squirming and muttering and blowing steam out of my ears. Didn't they remember *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail?* "Rennes-le-Château has been done!" I said, amazed. Surely everyone remembers that historian bloke with the beard, who kept saying "Rennes-le-Château" and "Ex in Arcadia ego" with such resonance and conviction? It was a *Chronicle* in the 1970s. The mystery of Rennes-le-Château in France all boiled down to Knights Templar and secret Rosicrucians and Jean Cocteau, and Joseph of Arimathea. Good grief, hand me that Poussin painting, and I'll draw you a strangely convincing pentacle on it.

If this sounds like raving, I'm

sorry, but the story of Rennes-le-Château tends to affect people like this; they get carried away. Which was why last night's highly sceptical *Timewatch* was so worthwhile. Henry Lincoln's old *Chronicle* book was not ignored, not at all. But another big-buck book on Rennes is being published — *The Tomb of God* — which takes Lincoln's evidence and reinterprets it, drawing new lines on maps and pictures and tilting them at different angles, all to prove (wait for it) that Jesus Christ died a natural death in France. And over at *Timewatch*, something snapped.

"This time you've gone too far!" they said. "Stand back, a history unit is coming through!"

You couldn't help feeling sorry for the two authors of this new book. Anonymous jeans-wearers with knapsacks, they were considerably less charismatic than Henry Lincoln, and the only thing

interesting about them was the £300,000 they'd made. Filmed in long-shot, they studied maps in the French countryside, and pointed at hills. Poor bastards. Little did they know, *Timewatch* was setting out to show that the cabalistic "mystery" of Rennes was based on 20th-century fabrications, compounded by bad historical method. Brains behind the scam was the man Lincoln famously tracked down — the so-called "last of the Merovingians". Alas, the royal genealogy was forged (copied from a children's magazine) and this man's real ancestor was a 16th-century walnut-grower.

Demolishing the credibility of the new book was a simple matter. "The original parchments, have you seen them?" asked *Timewatch*. "No, nobody has," said the Meek Jeaned Ones. Cut to a French historian who knows the whole story of the

REVIEW



Lynne
Truss

forgery, who holds up bits of paper. "This is the original," he says. Historical method usually involves checking things, you see, yet key things in the Rennes-le-Château story seem to have passed unchecked for years. Did the priest at Rennes really travel to Paris in 1900, and collect a copy of the Poussin painting (to draw lines on it)? Everybody says he did, but when the Louvre records were fin-

ally consulted, the answer was "Non". "Have you checked that?" asked *Timewatch*. "We have not checked that," came the reply.

You can understand why these chaps got obsessed, however. Sixteen years after the Henry Lincoln programme I went to the Royal Academy Poussin exhibition and toyed with a ruler in my pocket. The hunger for symbols and secrets is normal enough — why else did people go hunting for Kit Williams' golden hare? What *Timewatch* exposed so neatly last night was bad history, history which makes its own rules, and turns airy supposition into equally airy QEDs by the simplest sleight of hand. The fact that most journalism — and particularly television journalism — does the same thing every day of the week was conveniently ignored.

Still, at least we won't bother with Rennes-le-Château any more. Our young authors refuse to be

cowed, maintaining that the conspiracy is bigger than all of us. If there appear to be inconsistencies and omissions, blame those damn Rosicrucians. You can't help admiring their spirit.

Elsewhere it was a funny night for factual television. Channel 4's *Nuremberg* was almost anti-documentary, in a way, because it contained no screaming revisionism. It's a basic thing about historical films, that they must overturn all your former beliefs. "You thought the First World War ran from 1914 to 1918? Wrong!" But this quiet, unflashy *Nuremberg* was utterly straightforward, a little history lesson, well told. The trials fell apart in 1949, it said, because the West didn't want Germany further demoralised. Nazi industrialists were needed back at the factories. The Russians were the true enemy, after all.

Finally, Network First Three

6.00am Business Breakfast (47586)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (78857) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (8424673)
9.20 Style Challenge (s) (5956627) 9.45 Kilroy (s) (113673) 10.30 Can't Cook, Can't Cook (s) (47302) 11.00 News (Ceefax) (2293505) 11.05 Son of the Morning Star (f) (Ceefax) (59911979)
12.40pm Blooming Lovely (f) (19995079)
12.50 Holiday Outings (1995079)
1.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (71944)
1.30 Regional News (5171383)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (32449302) 2.00 Call My Bluff (s) (6104865) 2.35 Turnabout (s) (1643673) 3.00 A Week In the Country (s) (5654)
3.30 Ants in Your Pants (s) (6934147) 3.50 ChuckleVision (s) (8914383)
4.10 NEW Get Your Own Back. Children turn the tables on an assortment of adults (Ceefax) (s) (743194)
4.35 Cartoon Critters (Ceefax) (s) (4657050) 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (7747166) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (250925)
5.35 Neighbours (f) (Ceefax) (s) (281012) 6.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (895)
6.30 Regional news magazines (147)
7.00 Small Talk. Adults unravel the minds of nine children and discover who knows best (Ceefax) (8073)
7.30 Tomorrow's World. Featuring a disturbing new computer, which enables doctors to help the terminally ill to commit suicide (Ceefax) (s) (401)
8.00 Big Cat Diary. Simon King and Jonathan Scott's second film from Kenya's Masai Mara finds them tracking this majestic animal after dark (Ceefax) (s) (6333)
8.30 Next of Kin. Maggie and Andrew have been looking after their grandchildren for 12 hours and already one of them is in casualty (f) (Ceefax) (s) (5418)
9.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats (Ceefax) (100895)
9.05 News, regional news and weather (Ceefax) (864763)
9.35 The Thin Blue Line. Fowler plans a camping trip for young offenders, while DI Grim favours giving them a short sharp shock (f) (Ceefax) (s) (86215)
10.05 QED: Pride and Prejudice. A look at how psychologists help patients with facial disfigurements to come to terms with the way they look (Ceefax) (s) (607383)
10.35 International Comic Dancing. Rose- marie Ford and Charles Nove introduce Europe's top formation team, Bremer- haven from Germany, as they compete against the United Kingdom, the holders of the current Comic Dancing title (Ceefax) (s) (573050)
11.30 FILM: Ruby Alice (1992) with Andie McDowell and Liam Neeson. A woman's life is turned upside down when her husband is killed in a plane crash in Mexico. Faced with unpaid bills and a crimping mortgage she flies out to Mexico to bury him, where a further shock awaits her. Graeme Clifford directs (529895)
1.15am Weather (2288242)

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6.00am O U: Maths (2155673) 6.25 Elec-
trons and Photons (2174708) 6.50
Rural Life (6447751)

7.15 See Hear News (8546302) 7.30 Alvin
and the Chipmunks (8898692) 7.55
Growing Up Wild (s) (12078) 8.20
Christopher Crocodile (f) (1850760)
8.25 Monty (f) (8273418) 8.35 Lassie (f)
(2419302) 9.00 Ici Paris (1516465) 9.25
See You, See Me — Health (8434050)
9.45 Words and Pictures (8548586)
10.00 Playdays (5683760) 10.45 Cats' Eyes
(6882515) 11.00 Around Scotland
(317993) N.L.: Primary Focus 11.20
Music Makers (5526844) 11.40 English
Express (3165632) 12.00 German
Globe (7014586) 12.05pm Seeing
Through Science (8624370)

12.30 Working Lunch (37895) 1.00 Geo-
graphy Programme (7388607) 1.20
Thunderbirds in Hindi (6337732) 1.25
Zig Zag (73864586) 1.45 Come Outside
(4518760) 2.00 Christopher Croco-
dile (f) (8913587) 2.15 Monty (f)
(80585316) 2.15 National Trust Gar-
dens (6113505)

2.15 FILM: The Long Road Home (1990).
Depression drama, with Mark Harmon.
Directed by John Kory (232324)

3.35 News (4657202) 4.00 Today's the Day
(760) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (944)
5.00 The Oprah Whitney Show
(9303302) 5.40 The Flying Vet (743437)

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (f)
(Ceefax) (s) (6567859)

6.45 Kicking and Screaming. Former
England manager and stars of the 1970s and 1980s recall the agony and the
ecstasy (f) (Ceefax) (s) (794708)

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7.30 Scene: Terraces. Danny faces losing his
friends and family, all because he refuses
to paint his house Canary yellow in
support of his local football team (f)
(Ceefax) (s) (673)

8.00 Decisive Weapons: T34 —
The Queen of Tanks (Ceefax) (s) (4925)

8.30 The Fred Dibnah Story. Fred finds
himself pursued by women wishing to
share his life (4/7) (Ceefax) (5780) N.L.:
War Walks

9.00 Changing Rooms. Neighbours swap
houses to do a bit of decorating (Ceefax)
(s) (7470)

9.30 Great Railway Journeys: Great
Zimbabwe to Kilimandjaro (Ceefax) (s)
(799741)

10.25 Party Political Broadcast by the
Liberal Democrats (Subtitled) (20064)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (357541)

11.15 The Larry Sanders Show (Ceefax) (s)
(20032) 11.40 Salford (Ceefax) (s)
(812321) 12.05pm Grace under Fire (s)
(184277)

12.30-6.00 The Learning Zone (Ceefax)
(s) (673)

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